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OECD Expresses Support for Economic Reform

LD0705082693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0817 GMT 7 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris May 7 TASS—Members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), uniting 24 leading industrial states of the world, support economic reforms in Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union, and are prepared to render necessary help in carrying them out and consider these reforms as a common cause the success of which to a large extent depends on the well-being of the East as well as the West.

This was the leading idea behind a meeting between representativies of this competent international organization and delegations from four CIS countries, namely—Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan which was held at the OECD headquarters in Paris on Thursday evening. The Russian delegation was headed by Deputy Minister of Economics A. Shapovalyants.

It was the first time that such a meeting has been held at the OECD. Its results can be characterized as reassuring, first of all because from now onwards a direct dialogue has begun between former states of the erstwhile Soviet Union and the "Club of 24", Lorenz Schomerus, director general in Germany's Ministry of Economics who chaired the meeting, said at a press conference held after the forum.

According to Schomerus, a wide range of aspects of building a market economy, such as setting up competitive enterprises, the development of private investments, prospects for direct foreign investments in the economy of these countries, conditions of setting up joint enterprises, technical help, training personnel and many other issues were considered at the meeting.

Representatives of the OECD laid special emphasis on the need to work out as early as possible clear cut legal framework which will define in a simple and clear way all conditions of the running of the economy, including foreign capital investments.

Replying to a question on whether the current internal political situation in Russia was discussed during the meeting, Schomerus noted that the OECD representatives spoke about the encouragement instilled by the results of the referendum held in Russia on April 25. They expressed the hope that its results will create a firm basis for the continuation of reforms.

"We held a frank and constructive discussion on a wide range of problems, OECD Secretary-General Jean-Claude Paye told journalists.

Other representatives of the organization's member countries, cautioned Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine about mistakes committed by industrially developed countries during their difficult transition periods towards a market economy.

USSR Republics To Join Asian Development Bank

PM1005090793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 3

[Sergey Agafonov report: "New Recruits for Asian Bank"]

[Text] Tokyo—The 26th session of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which has 52 member countries, opens Tuesday in Manila. Informed sources report that after the Manila meeting the number of members of the ADB will rise: The question of admitting six former Soviet republics—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan—to the bank has now been virtually agreed.

The six will attend the event in the Philippine capital as observers: However, it is the view of people in the know in Tokyo that Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan—the two most economically secure and politically stable republics—will be granted full membership this week. The rest, according to a statement by ADB President K. Tarumidzu, will become members of the bank at the end of this year after undergoing necessary formalities and submitting the entrance fee to the ADB.

The question of admitting the former Soviet republics to the Asian Bank was pushed quite vigorously from various sides—the idea was supported in particular by Turkey, Pakistan, and especially Japan, which is said to have played an exceptional role in regulating a delicate and contentious aspect—so-called "dual membership" for the six in both the Asian Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. In principle, this is not really supposed to happen, but an exception was made for the new sovereign republics. And although the problem of delimiting powers and responsibilities in the Asian and European banks' operations in the same geographical area has not been completely solved, this did not cause delays in formalizing membership in the ADB.

This is supposedly not directly connected with the ADB's decision to broaden its ranks, but it is noteworthy that the question of increasing the "capacities" of the bank itself to $30 billion instead of the current $23 billion features as one of the key points on the agenda at the Manila session.

USSR Republics Attend Istanbul Oil Conference

PM1005092593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Khovratovich report: "Oil and Gas in Countries on the Black Sea"]

[Text] Istanbul—The first international conference on "Black Sea Oil and Gas" has taken place in Istanbul, with around 50 firms and organizations taking part.

The conference participants—primarily the Americans and the British—discussed the problems of exploiting and transporting oil and gas from Central Asia and Kazakhstan. Others—primarily the delegations from Bulgaria, Hungary, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine—wanted to know where and, more importantly, at what price they can purchase the petroleum products so vital to them.

Representatives of oil giants like Shell and British Petroleum did not come to Istanbul to discuss the problems of the oil shortage in, say, Moldova. At the conference they managed to ensure that the financing of all projects for constructing oil and gas pipelines from Central Asia to the Turkish Mediterranean port will be assumed by Western firms. This means that the revenue will also end up in their pockets.

At any rate, Istanbul—and this conference is proof of this—could become Europe's third oil center after London and Rotterdam.

Russia too could "fight" for spheres of influence in the world oil and gas market, but, with the exception of the deputy minister of ecology, there were no representatives from Russia's Government or oil complexes in Istanbul.

More on Meeting of East, Central Europe Defense Chiefs

PM0705133793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 93 p 3

[Modris Ziyeminsh and Vladimir Urban report: "Riga Meetings of Nine Ministers. In the Latvian Capital, Leaders of Central and East European Defense Structures Discuss More Than Just Collective Security Problems"]

[Text] As we reported in yesterday's issue, a meeting of ministers of defense of nine central and East European countries was held 3 May in Riga. It continues to be actively commented upon by the mass media. There are several reasons for this.

In Riga, the heads of the military departments discussed three groups of questions—the development of national security concepts; the role and place of central and East European countries in ensuring stability on the continent; and the problems of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries. It was the latter, as has become known, that prevented an official document on the results of the meeting from being adopted, although the original intention had been that a joint communique would be signed. But evidently not all ministers had the necessary powers, and indeed they had diverse views on these issues. Furthermore, in theory it was illogical to discuss the problem of the withdrawal of the troops without Russia.

But the establishment of bilateral ties is particularly worth noting. Thus, Latvian Defense Minister Talavs Jundzis managed to hold talks with the Ukrainian, Lithuania, Estonian, and Moldovan representatives. It was decided in particular to send a representative delegation from the Latvian Defense Ministry to Chisinau in the near future "to study the Moldovan experience of forming armed forces and possibilities of future cooperation." But other aims are evidently being pursued too. Speaking yesterday on the republic's television, Talavs Jundzis said that "'the Dniester region option' must be studied" at the meeting "to ensure that nothing like that happens in Latvia."

Colonel General Konstantin Morozov, Ukrainian defense minister, was also active in Riga, and the hosts of the meeting tried to emphasize his role in every way. Thus, Dajnis Turlajs, commander of the Latvian defense forces, said that Ukraine is a country which every state, and not only in Europe, should reckon with, on the basis of its geopolitical position and the role it plays in the United Nations. Konstantin Morozov was received by Latvian Supreme Soviet Chairman Anatolijs Gorbunovs. During the meeting, as the official report makes clear, the need to sign the prepared treaty on friendship and cooperation between the two states was noted, and problems involved in returning "former USSR servicemen of Ukrainian extraction" to Ukraine were also examined.

There is one important aspect in the desire to strengthen Latvian-Ukrainian contacts. The Riga meetings took place against the backdrop of a deterioration in Russian-Latvian relations. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written (see the 30 April edition of the newspaper) that 28 April the Latvian parliament adopted a decree on the issue of temporary residence permits to people whose presence in Latvia is connected with the temporary presence of the Russian troops. At Russia's initiative, the latest round of bilateral talks has been canceled. And last Friday the statement of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, which was made as a direct result of the Latvian Supreme Soviet decree dated 28 April, was circulated in the United Nations as an official document. The statement accuses the Latvian authorities of violating human rights and trying to "lay foundations for ethnic cleansing," by depriving a significant proportion of the republic's population of the right to a free choice of place of residence.

Clearly, Russia is now stepping up actions to protect the Russian-speaking population. And in its turn, Latvia is trying to take "reciprocal demarches" to neutralize this policy. The Riga meetings 3 May corroborate this.

Kravchuk, Shushkevich Not Firm Participants in Summit

LD1005165693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] A BELINFORM agency correspondent has learned that only Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk has so far not confirmed he would attend the heads of state summit scheduled for 14 May in Moscow. As for the Supreme Soviet chairman of the Republic of Belarus, a confidential source reports that the possibility of his participation is under consideration. The final decision is expected to be made on 11 May.

CIS Antitrust Summit Meets; Lithuania Absent

WS1005133593 Tallinn BNS in English 1439 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 08, BNS—The participants of the CIS anti-trust agencies leaders' meeting in Moscow have announced their readiness to cooperate in shaping and implementing a coordinated anti-trust policy aimed at developing new economic relations and the trade dialogue.

The meeting was attended by representatives of all former Soviet republics, except for Lithuania. This was the first joint activity of this kind carried out under the agreement "On coordinating the anti-trust policies" signed by the CIS member-states on March 12 this year.

"We are doomed to cooperate," summed up the head of the Russian state committee for anti-trust policy, Leonid Bochin. "We have too much in common, including, in the first place, the legacies remained after the Soviet Union."

Bochin pointed to the "colossal" monopolization of all branches of the economy and their "frightening" ineffectiveness. All this requires a thorough consideration and putting into action the anti-trust laws adopted by the republics.

The meeting's participants worked out a protocol pointing to the need to seek consistent criteria and methods of highlighting trust practices. They also agreed to set up a mechanism of cooperation between state anti-trust agencies. They also pointed to the need for a permanent information exchange, frequent contacts and consultations between the bodies. The participants stressed their legislative acts by providing each other help in the form of expertise and consultations.

The Estonian Finance Ministry Pricing Policy Department deputy head, A. Aagu, said that his country was interested in exchanging information on shaping and implementing anti-trust legislation in Russia and other CIS republics. He said that in the near future Estonia would adopt a law on competition, which would contain many stipulations of the anti-trust laws of the 30s.

Japanese TV Reports on 1960 Baykonur Missile Disaster

LD1005145993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0932 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Solentsev]

[Text] Tokyo May 10 TASS—The largest ever disaster in the history of world missile engineering occurred in the USSR, at the Baykonur Cosmodrome, in October 1960, when a Soviet combat missile exploded there, killing at least 91 men. This is borne out by archive films, received by the KYODO TSUSHIN news service in Moscow from the "Videocosmos" company and shown on Japanese television today.

"This tragedy," the news service notes, "occurred at a time when the Soviet Union and the United States were vigorously competing for leadership in space and in missile building, and half a year before Yuriy Gagarin accomplished the world's first space flight from the same cosmodrome."

The catastrophe occurred on October 24, 1960, half an hour before the launching of a new-type large combat missile. The powerful explosion and huge fire, which turned the launching pad into a sea of flames, reduced to nought the attempts of firefighters to rescue scores of cosmodrome workers and military observers. The beginning of the fire was not filmed, but, according to other sources, it was caused by a fuel leak, in spite of which preparations for the launching were continued.

Other archive films, hitherto unknown to the public at large, show that flier-cosmonaut Alexey Leonov had almost perished when he stepped out into outer space for the first time in mankind's history in March 1965. His pressurised suit was damaged during the operation and he was unable for some time to return to the "Voskhod-2" spaceship orbiting around the earth at 180 kilometres from its surface. Only his huge self-control helped him to climb back on board.

Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Issues Over Phone

LD1005152693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1459 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—On the initiative of the American side Russian President Boris Yeltsin held a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton today. The presidents discussed a number of issues of bilateral relations and international politics, the Russian Foreign Ministry informed today.

Senate Committee Confirms Pickering Nomination

PM1005105393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "Thomas Pickering—Ambassador in Five Minutes"]

[Text] Washington—The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously confirmed career diplomat Thomas Pickering as U.S. ambassador to Russia Thursday.

Now the matter will go to a full Senate vote, but in this case it is a pure formality, since virtually no objections were raised against Pickering during the Senate committee hearings.

Objections were made, however, when the new ambassador's candidacy was being checked by the usual channels in such cases, including the FBI. A former colleague anonymously accused Pickering of abusing his position as U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations.

The investigation and checking out of the accusations—which ultimately proved to be without foundation—was one of the main reasons why the process of ratifying Pickering in his new job has taken so long (more than two months).

'Bargain Sale' of Strategic Reserves Criticized

PM1005171793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 7

[Commentary by Petr Belov under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "We Sell Uranium, We Disclose Classified Information... Who Reaps the Benefit?"]

[Text] Recently the newspapers reported the sale at a fabulously low price of Russian strategic uranium reserves and the organization of a joint experiment to improve ABM defenses.

Let me remark that these deals, which are profitable only to the United States, are served up by our mass media as Russian initiatives. What is more, we are supposedly foisting them on the United States, trying to win them over, and beating our breasts—when suddenly these ambitious Americans grow stubborn. And in order to persuade them to "meet us halfway," we can see our way incidentally to lowering the price of uranium and plutonium and making the terms of the experiment such that under them the essence of our latest design and technological achievements in the sphere of plasma and gas dynamics is disclosed, that is to say, yet another leak of information takes place, making further cooperation unnecessary.

How is it possible to agree to bargain sales of strategic reserves of uranium and plutonium, whose value will rise continuously as natural energy sources are exhausted? Even today their value exceeds that of our gold reserve, in the opinion of Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov. The profitability of the deal in question amounts to 2,500 percent, but not for Russia—for the United States. That is today. Who has calculated the energy costs of the 21st century? Is it permissible in these conditions to disregard the interests of our descendants by concluding such long-term contracts (for 20 years) for a miserly sum—$13 billion?

The sale of nuclear materials at ridiculously low prices cannot facilitate international stability either. Such actions deprive us of the possibility, in the event of unfavorable circumstances, of sharply increasing our defense capability, while they preserve the U.S. potential for doing so. And who will vouchsafe that this will not provoke Washington, for example, to withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty or from the START II treaty which is currently being discussed in the Russian Supreme Soviet?

Our initiative on the use of plasma weapons to disable missile warheads is really dangerous to international stability. It is fundamentally impermissible, in my view, because it sets a precedent for testing ABM weapons operating on new physical principles. It is even more unacceptable to stage joint tests without prior multilateral discussion of the concrete restrictions on such principles and elements laid down in the 13 June 1972 Agreed Statement regarding the ABM defense limitation treaty.

Incidentally, it is possible to satisfy oneself that the inititiatives on joint experiments are not Russia's by studying the memorandum of the Heritage Foundation "brain trust" entitled "Making the World Safe for the United States," published exactly one year ago. The actual idea of using plasma weapons is not new, including using them to destroy such targets as missile warheads, whose flight in dense atmospheric strata is accompanied by the formation of an area of superheated and therefore ionized gas. If such objects encounter another area of equally ionized gas in their way, by the laws of interaction between electrically charged bodies (in our case plasma formations) forces arise between them which can alter the warhead's trajectory and in certain circumstances even destroy it.

It is possible to envisage not just the theoretical but also the technical, realization of a large-scale experiment acting on one, at the most two, warheads. It is this interest, scientific more than anything else, and also a natural desire for cooperation which explains the birth of

the idea under examination in some circles of the Russian military-industrial complex. And this is perfectly natural, as is their desire for additional funding, foreign business trips, and so forth.

"Our" proposal on the joint experiment will most likely not go unnoticed. But we risk not only squandering our intellectual resources but also giving a direct motive for violating the ABM Treaty. Surely the "global defense of the United States and its allies" (the goal of the experiment) contradicts the requirements of Article 1.2: "not to deploy ABM systems for the defense of its country's territory and not to create a base for its defense"; while the experiment itself contradicts Article 5.1: "not to create, not to use, and not to deploy ABM systems or components which are sea-based, air-based, space-based, or mobile land-based."

There is another paradoxical "exchange"—of the expertise of tens of thousands of scientific projects by the Soros Fund, allegedly with the aim of assessing the prospects of implementing and funding them. The real value of the ideas in question is valued in billions. Only around a hundred inventors have actually been paid though, and even they have received only $500 each. In the same way the aforementioned experiment could bring the United States savings of $30 billion against costs of $300 billion. But how much do we get out of it?

Of course, it can be objected: We are faced with ruin, we have no funds, there is nowhere for weapons-grade uranium or plutonium to go; the Tomsk Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies is against shipping in and constructing a storehouse for nuclear materials. Or, for instance, Armaz-16 deputies are against dismantling nuclear warheads. What is to be done? After all, they are promising billions for joint work on ABM defense; and promising to withdraw COCOM restrictions. Are these not good arguments? True, the West does not keep all its promises...

The best solution to crisis situations, as is well known, is to avoid getting into them. The experience of recent years in our foreign policy testifies to the need for a corresponding law regulating the procedure for preparing foreign policy initiatives and establishing personal responsibility for their implementation.

Shokhin on Implementing Vancouver Grain Deal

PM1105111193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 May 93 p 2

[Igor Petrov report: "'Food for Progress.' Vancouver Agreements Put Into Effect"]

[Text] Over 4 million tonnes of U.S. grain will arrive in Russia within the framework of the "Food for Progress" program. These purchases were possible after U.S. President B. Clinton announced at the Vancouver summit that Russia would be granted food credits worth $700 million.

However, there immediately arose serious obstacles to the implementation of this proposal. The point is that, under the law on trade advantages currently in force in the United States, 75 percent of the grain supplied to any country on the basis of an aid program must be transported by ships flying the U.S. flag. Exploiting this circumstance, American shipowners have demanded $138 for the transportation of 1 tonne of grain, while their Greek competitors, for instance, have conversely reduced the price to $26 per tonne.

According to Russian Government Vice Premier A. Shokhin, to agree to this condition would mean to lose, for no good reason, almost half of the entire credit granted. As a result of intense talks in Washington, a compromise has nevertheless been reached.

Without going into the technical details of the formula devised, Shokhin noted that "Russia will pay for the chartering of ships at current world prices, without any speculative swindles." Furthermore, according to the vice premier, the commodities bought with the credit will change somewhat. The Russian Government intends to decrease the purchases of U.S. grain, placing the emphasis on supplies of corn and soybean.

Defense Minister Grachev Arrives in Turkey

LD1005115193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1014 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 10 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev arrived in Turkey today on an official visit. At Ankara airport he was met by Nevzat Ayaz, the Turkish minister of national defense, and other officials.

Pavel Grachev will have talks with N. Ayaz today and will also be received by acting Turkish President Husamettin Cindoruk. On 11 May the Russian minister will have talks with Dogan Gures, the Turkish Armed Forces chief of general staff, and with Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel.

During its stay in Turkey the Russian Federation delegation will visit military installations and defense enterprises in Ankara and Istanbul.

Pavel Grachev will leave Turkey on 14 May.

In a statement at Ankara airport Pavel Grachev said that during the negotiations in Turkey the Russian delegation is prepared to discuss questions relating to bilateral military cooperation as well as the situation in the region. He stated the desire to reach a common opinion as far as possible, in order to exert influence on the situation in the hot spots. P. Grachev stressed that Russia wants to maintain good relations with Turkey, as with any state which condemns aggressive policy.

Turkey's Defense Minister N. Ayaz said, in his turn, that Russia and Turkey are countries on which peace, stability, and prosperity in the region depend. He pointed out that the talks will touch on the defense industry and

the opportunities for military cooperation between the two countries. A bilateral agreement is expected to be signed. Particular attention will be given to the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Meets Prime Minister

LD1005154093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1450 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 10 May—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel received Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev today. Grachev had arrived in Turkey on a visit. Questions of bilateral relations in the areas of foreign policy and defense—and also the situation in the region's hot spots—were examined during the course of their meeting.

The program of Grachev's visit has been changed in connection with the Russian minister's desire to visit units of the 3d Army in Eastern Anatolia, which was welcomed by the Turkish leadership. He will go to Erzurum on Wednesday, and he will be brought to Istanbul on board a special plane on Thursday. The Russian delegation will leave Turkey on 14 May.

Talks With Counterpart

LD1005201893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1913 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Feoktistov]

[Text] Ankara, 10 May—Official negotiations between Russian and Turkish delegations, headed respectively by Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Turkish Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz, were held in Ankara today. P. Grachev said Russia is ready to cooperate with Turkey in all military spheres. He noted that despite all efforts, a solution to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia has not yet been found. Both sides are to blame for continuing the conflict. In the defense minister's view, the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, which is Azerbaijan's territory, should be determined at joint negotiations.

P. Grachev pointed out that Russia is concerned about the fact that certain states are supplying Azerbaijan with military hardware and ammunition. The Russian minister emphasized that the problem ought to be tackled within the framework of the peace initiative that Turkey, the United States and Russia have put forward with the participation of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh.

P. Grachev also noted that the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be solved by political means. He opposed the idea of carrying out a military air operation, which could put civilians at risk. He pointed out that lifting the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia would result in the countries of the region amassing more weapons. The Russian Federation defense minister proposed a strengthening of the air surveillance of the regions populated by Bosnian Serbs, and a tightening of the economic blockade. Final alterations might be introduced in the Vance-Owen plan, which is supported by Russia. Corridors might be opened between the regions populated by Bosnian Serbs and Serbia, Grachev said.

For his part, Turkey's Defense Minister Nevzat Ayaz spoke in favor of developing relations with the Russian Federation, and pointed out that such cooperation between the two countries was necessary in order to establish peace and security in the region. He advocated developing bilateral relations in military education and in the defense industry. Mr. Ayaz condemned Armenia's aggressive policy, and urged Yerevan to observe the cease-fire agreement so that the problem can be resolved through peaceful negotiations.

Mr. Ayaz said he is hopeful that the cease-fire in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be complied with, and urged Russia to take steps in this direction. He drew his counterpart's attention to the prolonged instability in the Near East and to the serious situation in Iraq, stressing that Turkey advocates the territorial integrity of that state.

Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev was also received today by Turkish Acting President Husamettin Cindoruk.

Vorontsov on Tougher Measures if Vance-Owen Plan Rejected

PM1105093993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 May 93 p 2

[Unattributed report from "Events, Facts, Opinions" roundup: "Bosnian Crisis"]

[Text] Yu. Vorontsov, Russia's permanent representative at the United Nations, has stated: "Russia proceeds from the premise that following the talks in Athens all obstacles arising on the path toward implementing the Vance-Owen plan must be removed. If this plan fails to be adopted and implemented, we are prepared to discuss new, tougher measures: What is more, no measures have been predetermined and excluded from the discussion. In today's conditions, any efforts to gain new territorial acquisitions through military means, and any actions leading to the suffering of the Bosnian population and the violation of humanitarian law, must be stopped immediately."

Sources Stress Importance of Serb-Muslim Cease-Fire

LD1005172093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1638 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 10 (TANJUG)—The ceasefire agreement between Serbs and Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina could be an important positive element in a

peaceful resolution of the conflict in that former Yugoslav republic, sources close to official Moscow circles told TANJUG on Monday.

The agreement signed on Saturday in Sarajevo by Bosnian Serb and Moslem military commanders should be observed and not be short-lived as a number of former agreements, the same sources said. Although it has made no official comments, Moscow is concerned over the Croat-Moslem clashes in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Unofficially, it maintains that these are no longer skirmishes, but a conflict which makes the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina even more difficult.

The national ITAR-TASS news agency on Monday gave a detailed report of the clashes, quoting observers as saying that the clashes in the Herzegovina city of Mostar were provoked by the local Croatian authorities. There is no proof in Moscow that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will soon go to Belgrade and Sarajevo to mediate in the resolution of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, as some heralds said.

Kozyrev's initiative that a U.N. Security Council ministerial session be organized in the territory of the former Yugoslavia seems not to have received support from Russia's partners—permanent Security Council members. According to official Moscow, results of a Bosnian Serb referendum will determine the international community's further activities. Should the Vance-Owen peace plan be rejected, Moscow does not rule out 'fierce measures' against Bosnian Serbs.

The Bosnia-Herzegovina Serbs will vote on the peace plan at the referendum sheduled for May 15 and 16, after the Bosnian Serb parliament last week decided it could not ratify the document initialed by their leader Radovan Karadzic in Athens on May 2.

Paper Hits 'Groveling' Diplomacy on Bosnian Serbs

PM1005160193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 May 93 p 5

[Ye. Popov article: "Diplomacy of Cynicism. Russian Foreign Ministry Twisting Arm of Bosnian Serbs"]

[Excerpts] A situation familiar in diplomatic practice is that in which a partner, while smiling in accordance with protocol and shaking hands in a friendly fashion, simultaneously treads painfully on the other partner's foot—not in the literal sense, of course; it is also possible to kick very painfully while observing all the outward norms of decorum, as the loftiest representatives of Kozyrev's department have frequently demonstrated.

However, the demarche by the Russian Foreign Ministry following the Bosnian Serb parliament session in Pale, a suburb of Sarajevo, sets a completely new precedent in the diplomacy of cynicism. Apparently it is not only possible to kick but also to announce that this is the highest manifestation of traditionally friendly feelings, and in the event of disagreement with this assessment to strike the pose of the aggrieved party. A ranking representative of Kozyrev's diplomatic service who did not wish his name to be mentioned in the press stated that it was the Bosnian parliament that had "hit below the belt" by immediately refusing to accept the so-called Vance-Owen plan (it is well known that it was decided to put this issue to a referendum to be held 15-16 May this year).

In its 6 May edition, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA published a map of the territorial division of Bosnia-Herzegovina under the Vance-Owen plan. Commenting on the map, we noted that the creators of the "new world order" had basically presented the Serbian people with a harsh ultimatum.

The Bosnian Serb parliament session of 5 May was held in a situation that was quite unprecedented in world history. Namely expression of will...at gunpoint! More precisely, under threat of U.S. bombing strikes against Serbian positions if they allowed themselves "to dare to have their own opinion." [passage omitted]

Russia could play a key role in the peace process in the Balkans which would be fully in keeping with its geopolitical and national interests. But it is precisely the groveling attitude displayed by the Russian diplomatic service vis-a-vis the United States that has ultimately tied the Yugoslav conflict into a tight and bloody knot. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Supports UN Resolution on NKAO

LD0705132693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1314 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Moscow May 7 TASS—"A meeting of the United Nations Security Council Recently convened on request of the Azeri Republic to discuss the escalation and spreading of combat operations outside Nagorno-Karabakh unanimously adopted a resolution to peacefully settle the crisis," says a statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry's representative circulated here today.

"The Security Council demanded immediate termination of all combat operations and hostile acts with the aim of lasting cease-fire and immediate withdrawal of all occupational forces from the Kelbadzhar region and other recently seized Azeri territories.

"The Security Council called on all interested sides to immediately resume negotiations to settle the conflict within the CSCE Minsk group peace process and abstain from actions that may hamper the peaceful problem solution.

"The Russian Federation, which consistently favors a political solution to the problem, calls on all the conflicting sides to officially and clearly confirm their readiness for immediate complete fulfilment of U.N. Security Council resolution 822/93 of April 30, 1993. This would, doubtlessly, help progress in the peaceful settlement.

"It should be also noted the recent mediating initiative of Russian President Boris Yeltsin fully corresponds to the Security Council resolution. Russia intends further active cooperation with states, striving to search for solutions to all problems at the negotiations table and not on a battle field. The termination of bloodshed remains a priority task, an imperative of peaceful settlement".

Parties' Response to NKAO Accord

PM1005163393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Baku Agrees With New Nagorno-Karabakh Initiative"]

[Text] Azerbaijan wholly agrees with the provisions of the new plan for settling the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis submitted by Russia, Turkey, and the United States 3 May. State Secretary Panakh Guseynov reported his government's decision at a news conference in Baku.

At the same time, Armenia's reaction, judging by the statements from foreign ministry spokesmen in Yerevan, continues to depend on Stepanakert's opinion. The leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh, while giving the thumbs-up to the tripartite initiative as a whole, would like to make certain amendments to it. In particular, they want to extend the timetable for the Armenian forces' withdrawal from Kelbadzharskiy Rayon in order to give the special CSCE observers time to deploy there to monitor the cease-fire. The Stepanakert leadership would also like to formalize the ending of hostilities in a special agreement, which would give Nagorno-Karabakh the chance to act as a legally autonomous party.

But the Moscow, Ankara, and Washington plan was drawn up on an "all or nothing" basis—in other words, Yerevan and Baku must either agree to it in full or reject it outright. Nagorno-Karabakh's stance adds a new element to the situation. In the event of the authors of the initiative meeting Stepanakert halfway, objections can be expected from Azerbaijan. Diplomatic circles believe that the chance offered by the Elchibey government's unconditional agreement with the new settlement plan should not be squandered. Hitherto Azerbaijan had, as a rule, insisted on additional conditions being observed. "A fair amount of work will have to be done to achieve agreement among all three sides to the conflict and to prevent the collapse of the tripartite initiative," IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told by a well-informed diplomat.

A special statement from the Russian Foreign Ministry on UN Security Council Resolution 822 calling for a cease-fire in the Transcaucasus was issued in Moscow 7 May. In the Foreign Ministry's opinion, it wholly corresponds with our country's position with regard to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. The statement particularly highlighted the need for the warring parties to observe all points of the resolution. "Peacekeeping efforts too often end up being fruitless because both Baku and Yerevan interepret the international community's decisions in a way that suits them, forgetting about the principle of equal obligations," a ranking Foreign Ministry official noted in this connection.

Abkhazians Agree 'in Principle' to Cease-Fire

LD0705142493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] ITAR-TASS reports that at the Russo-Abkhaz consultations that have ended in Maykop, the Abkhaz side agreed in principle to proposals for an immediate, complete, and unconditional cease-fire and other proposals on ways of settling the Abkhaz conflict, which were worked out at Sochi in April during talks between Russia and Georgia. Admittedly, as the final communique notes, agreement on the withdrawal of all Georgian armed formations from the conflict zone is an indispensable condition for a settlement. Only the minimum needed to help guard strategically important installations and maintain law and order as part of tripartite forces, in accordance with the decision of the Abkhazia control commission, should be allowed to remain.

Humanitarian Mission to Abkhazia Announced in Sochi

PM1105103193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 1

[Andrey Aderekhin report: "Operational Headquarters Set Up in Sochi To Conduct Humanitarian Operations in Abkhazia"]

[Text] Krasnodar—Yu. Vorobyev, first deputy chairman of the Russian State Committee for Affairs of Civil Defense, Emergency Situations, and Elimination of Natural Disasters, has announced in Sochi humanitarian operations which it is planned to implement in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone.

Apart from removing refugees from the conflict zone and delivering food to Tkvarcheli, the Russian representatives are prepared to survey mines that have had to close because of the war, where there has been a buildup of methane. An operational headquarters has been set up in Sochi to carry out humanitarian operations, and special helicopters and ships have been prepared, along with several hundred tonnes of foodstuffs. Operations will begin as soon as Georgia's consent is obtained.

'Ukrainianization' Pressures Black Sea Seamen

PM1005121593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 May 93 First Edition p 7

[Boris Sverdlov report: "Trouble in Sevastopol Bay"]

[Text] Sevastopol—Waves of emotion are crashing over Sevastopol one after another. Well, it does not really matter if the city's central square is regularly "occupied" by rallies where speakers hone their oratorical skills, or if city soviet sessions are equally regularly the scene of stormy debates between the leaders of different factions,

parties, or movements. But things are serious when officers from the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian Navy who had once served on the same ships and see themselves as being like-minded people virtually start taking to different sides of the barricades. The sides have awesome weaponry at their disposal. And, as is well known, it could be used at the most unfortunate time...

The latest surge of tension flared up out of the blue. On Moscow's instructions Black Sea Fleet personnel started being paid at Russian rates and on the basis of the karbovanets rate against the ruble. This angered official Kiev. It started imputing all kinds of misdeeds to Russia, claiming that it had been the first to violate the Yalta agreement, that through its handouts [podachki] it had done irreparable damage to the morale of Ukrainian naval personnel, and that it had been sending ships with Ukrainian crews all over the place unbeknownst to Kiev, including—particularly puzzlingly—to the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone.

...An explanation is required. Long before Russia increased the salaries of Black Sea Fleet officers and ensigns, Ukraine had started increasing pay for naval personnel, who ended up being paid almost twice as much as the Russians. Other commanders, unable to bear their impoverished existence—for instance, captains first class were earning barely more than 20,000 karbovantsy (half as much as a trolleybus driver)—took the oath of loyalty to Ukraine and thereby were automatically enrolled in the Ukrainian Navy. In order not to lose cadres, Russia's leaders have been forced to raise pay rates. And it is all the more groundless to claim that ships had secretly been sent to the Georgian coast. In Sevastopol it is impossible to hide the departure of even a small warship. It is difficult if only because 50 percent of the men serving on every ship have taken the oath of loyalty to Ukraine. That is why the ships openly weighed anchor with just one aim—to help evacuate refugees from the war zone.

But, whatever the case, Russia was taking some flak. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry was really angry. Things reached the point where the order reached Sevastopol that those servicemen who refused to take the oath of loyalty to Ukraine could pack their bags and go, so to speak. This was followed by the clarification that it applied to coast guard subunits. Following the Defense Ministry order all military commandants' offices, including the Black Sea Fleet, were placed under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Navy.

Journalists were caught up in this squabble. Some started bad-mouthing the Ukrainian leadership without mincing their words, while others took Russia as their target. Only the explanation from President L. Kravchuk managed to slightly cool the ardor of the typewriter brigade: "The Black Sea Fleet is subordinate to the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, and nobody is entitled to interfere in its affairs."

Passions gradually subsided. But will it be for long? The answer—no—is probably clear to any sober-minded person. Why?

The answer stares you in the face. The Yalta agreements, which had previously reassured the public in the two states, now require further development. Otherwise—or so the overwhelming majority of the people I have spoken to claim—Russia will be the loser.

Today literally every officer and ensign in the Black Sea Fleet is experiencing tremendous psychological pressure. As one of the officers on the Ladnyy aptly put it, Russia is a long way away, and we are bound to Ukraine by strong naval ties. That is all true. Most people have families and apartments here. Who knows what will be decided by the presidents of the two Slavic states, who plan to continue talks on the Black Sea Fleet's status in... 1995? This long period of uncertainty is of concern to many.

Some people tend to believe that the fleet will ultimately be divided up and that some of it will have to be redeployed to Novorossiysk. What is the basis for that view? Addressing the Officers Union Congress, Ukrainian Defense Minister K. Morozov stated that it is impossible to lease Ukrainian land to Moscow. Naturally, the question of the withdrawal of foreign ships from the republic will be raised too. I do not think that the defense minister would make such a categorical statement unbeknownst to the Ukrainian leadership. This means that there will be a redeployment. And it will make few people in the fleet happy. The housing problem is acute in Russia as it is—nobody wants an extra army of homeless persons.

But even this is by no means all. The Ukrainian press is launching a powerful offensive against the fleet. And this often involves turning the facts upside down. Judge for yourselves.

"The powerful Russian Black Sea Fleet is an instrument of war and a destabilizing factor for all neighboring states, whereas a Ukrainian Black Sea fleet would be an instrument of peace and stability in the entire Black Sea region," the Ukrainian National Assembly newspaper claims. But the writers do not stop there: "...In the light of the above, what would be the Ukrainian Black Sea fleet's main mission? In short, exactly the same as it is now—strategic amphibious operations. Only, not to the far-off and foreign Dardanelles, but to the nearby and familiar Kuban."

And it proclaims in conclusion that "the Black Sea Fleet is Ukrainian, Ukrainian, Ukrainian." Incidentally, this newspaper—like many others—is widely distributed in Sevastopol. And it reaches its obligatory target—Russian officers—almost unnoticed.

The sociological surveys carried out in the Black Sea Fleet are of some interest in this connection. Some 90 percent of those polled are resolutely opposed to the Ukrainianization being imposed on Sevastopol and the

fleet. Some 80 percent replied that they see no future in the service and that they have no confidence about their problems being solved.

But the main thing is that all of the respondents without exception advocated the immediate development of the Yalta accords and a meeting between B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk. The question of the fleet cannot be left hanging.

Intelligence Service Denies Japanese Claims

LD1105114993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1030 GMT 11 May 93

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Kutakhov]

[Text] Tokyo, 11 May—The Russian intelligence services have been stepping up their activities in Japan of late, and it is possible that they had a great influence on the decision to postpone the official visit to Japan by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in September last year. The newspaper SANKEI SHIMBUN reports that this is stated in a report by Japanese security bodies for official use.

Sources in the Japanese intelligence services have told the newspaper that at present their experts are analyzing the reasons behind the decision by Boris Yeltsin, which became known at the beginning of May, to postpone once again a trip to Japan. In their view, there are grounds for believing that the Russian Federation's intelligence service is exerting influence on the progress of Russo-Japanese talks on the "northern territories," something which is further complicating a solution to the territorial problem.

In response to a request from an ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on the SANKEI SHIMBUN report, Tatyana Samolis, press secretary to the director of the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, commented that a decision on the date for President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Japan is the prerogative of Russia's political leadership, not its intelligence services. The Japanese leadership know perfectly well why the Russian head of state's first trip to Tokyo did not take place and why a second attempt is now being made to set a date for his visit to Japan. Incidentally, the end of May was not agreed upon officially, but merely considered as a possibility.

Attempts to fill certain publications with fabrications about the Foreign Intelligence Service's influence on political decisionmaking and with suggestions that Russian intelligence is active do not correspond to reality and could be seen as an attempt to put pressure on the Russian side, and especially on its intelligence services, the press secretary to the director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service stressed.

Talks Held With Japan Delegation on Nuclear Waste

OW1105120393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 11 KYODO—Japan and Russia held the first joint working group session Tuesday [11 May] on the issue of nuclear waste dumping by the former Soviet Union and Russia into the Pacific Ocean near Japan.

Officials of Japan's Foreign, and International Trade and Industry Ministries are attending the two-day meeting at the Foreign Ministry in Moscow.

Also taking part are Japanese officials from the Maritime Safety, Science and Technology, and Fisheries Agencies.

A Russian Foreign Ministry official said at the outset of the meeting that the session is significant in that it marks the first step in new bilateral cooperation.

A Russian Government report said Russia and the former Soviet Union dumped nuclear waste into the Sea of Japan, the Sea of Okhotsk and an area southeast of Kamchatka from late 1959 to 1992.

Two nuclear reactors also were discarded in the Sea of Japan, the report said.

The Japanese delegation will express Japan's grave concern over the dumping, which could pose a threat to the environment, officials said. They will ask the Russians for more detailed explanations about the actual situation.

It also will explore the possibility of a joint investigation into the problem with Russia, Japanese Government sources said.

Japanese and Russian Foreign Ministers Kabun Muto and Andrey Kozyrev agreed last month to set up a joint working group to look into the problem.

Japan has decided to provide Russia with 100 million dollars in grants to dismantle nuclear weapons and prevent radioactive waste being dumped into the sea.

Accord on Building Nuclear Plant for China

MK1105114093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 May 93 p 4

[Mikhail Lashch report published in "Russian-Chinese 'Nuclear Project'" column: "Russia To Build Turnkey Nuclear Power Project in China"]

[Text] The text of an agreement between Russia and China on cooperation in building on Chinese territory a nuclear power station and on extending to China state credits worth $2.5 billion has been submitted to the Russian Government for preliminary ratification. This agreement was signed during Boris Yeltsin's visit to China in December 1992. According to officials of the Ministry of the Nuclear Power Industry, however, practical steps to implement this program

did not get under way until May. Experts point out that the plan to build a nuclear power station in China is the most important among the 28 agreements signed by the Russian president.

With Russia's participation, a two-unit ground-based nuclear power station [AES] will be built in the Chinese province of Liaoning. Each unit includes a 1000-mw VVER-1000-type reactor and a turbo-generator, as well as auxiliary units. According to experts, VVER-1000 type reactors (in Russia they are in use at the Kalininskaya and Balakovskaya AES) have not failed even once.

Talks about AES construction in China were conducted in the eighties by the Ryzhkov government but were suddenly interrupted—possibly owing to the explosion at the fourth block of the Chernobyl AES that occurred about at that time. Experts believe, however, that the Ryzhkov government, seeing that the union budget would not withstand such large state credits, decided to abandon this costly project. The sole result of the government talks at the time was the 24 April 1990 memorandum signed by both sides—it became the formal basis for the resumption of talks on the construction of an AES in China.

The core of the agreement signed in December 1992 is the extension to China of a state credit "in the amount of $2.5 billion to build an AES at an annual interest rate of 4 percent." This credit will be used by China to pay the expenses sustained by the Russian organizations involved in the project. The credits provided for under the agreement should cover between 90 and 92 percent of the expenses of the Russian organizations participating in the construction of the AES, while the remaining 8 to 10 percent is to be paid by the Chinese side in hard cash, commodities, and services. Furthermore, Russia will undertake to do all the work to commission the AES and carry out the first complete deliveries of nuclear fuel.

In connection with the Russian-Chinese nuclear project, experts point to three noteworthy details. First, the Russian leadership for the first time since the disintegration of the USSR has decided to build an AES outside the country's boundaries, which points to its interest in supplying technology-intensive products and nuclear fuel abroad. Second, the Russian leadership in the context of a budget deficit has decided to extend an extremely large credit to a foreign state, which testifies to the Russian side's serious interest in this project. Third, Russia is even ready for an arrangement whereby China will be returning the credit granted to it for the construction of the AES not with "cold, hard cash" but with services which are to be specified in the course of further negotiations.

[Article contains following boxed passage]

List of goods and services to be delivered to Russia as payment toward Russian state credits

Commodities and services	Annual payments toward amortization [as published]
Foodstuffs and raw materials for their production	25 percent
Consumer goods	40 percent
Mining, chemical goods, and construction materials	10 percent
Ship repairs	10 percent
Other commodities	15 percent

The Russian side's conditions at the talks:

1. The state credits provided for under the agreement must cover 90 to 91 percent of the expenses sustained by the Russian organizations in building the AES, while the remaining 8 to 10 percent are subject to be repaid by the Chinese side in foreign exchange cash, goods, and services.

2. The credit is to be repaid within 13 years in equal annual installments, beginning one year from the date the first AES block is commissioned but not later than the year 2002; or within 12 years in equal portions, starting two years after the commissioning of the first AES block.

3. Russian organizations will transfer to the Chinese side informational materials on the prototype station with a VVER-1000 reactor.

Aleksandr Shokhin, deputy chairman of the government, will be entrusted to hold consultations on the project.

Consulate To Open in Hong Kong

PM1005142793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 6

[Vagan Mkrtchyan report: "Hong Kong Opens Moscow Office"]

[Text] The report that representatives of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry are seeking premises in Hong Kong in order to open a consulate did not cause a sensation. It is high time this happened, we were told on Smolensk Boulevard, since bilateral relations between Russia and this, for Russians, once-closed territory have become much more active over the past three-four years.

The question of opening a Russian consulate in Hong Kong has already been agreed with the authorities in Hong Kong, Britain (which is formally the colonial ruler of the territory), and China, to whose jurisdiction Hong Kong will be transferred as of 1 July 1997 under the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984.

The Hong Kong Trade Development Council will be opening an office of its own in Moscow in the very near future. This semigovernmental organization of Hong Kong business circles was one of the first to open up the Russian market to Hong Kong entrepreneurs. Over the

past five years the council has regularly arranged for Hong Kong firms and companies to take part in international exhibitions and fairs held in Moscow and St. Petersburg. This year alone, after taking part in the year's largest exposition—"Consumexpo '93"— the council is organizing the joint Hong Kong stand at the "SEM '93" exhibition in Moscow in May, the "Baltic International Fair" in St. Petersburg in June, and again at "Consumexpo '94" in January 1994. Council representative Mrs. Maria Petersson-Sandou [name as published] stressed in an interview that the council is striving to attract not just the same exhibitors to exhibitions in Russia but representatives of various firms and companies, and, by covering an increasingly wide spectrum of Hong Kong business, to provide a practical opportunity through personal contacts with Russian entrepreneurs to convince Hong Kong businessmen about the extensive opportunities afforded by this vast market, which is so unlike the markets they are used to. As a result of the previous "SEM '92" exhibition in 1992, she noted, Hong Kong firms have concluded or are conducting talks on orders worth more than $30 million.

Paper Profiles Helicopter Crew Serving in Cambodia

PM1005184593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 93 p 7

[Special correspondent Igor Chernyak report: "Don't Go Down in the Jungle, Colonel Zakirov"]

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh-Moscow—Dozens of Russian helicopters take off into the skies of Cambodia every day. Crews work under conditions that are the closest possible to combat conditions. [passage omitted]

The Russian helicopter pilots in Cambodia get quite good pay by our standards—approximately $1,500. Converted into rubles, that is well over a million, i.e. roughly what people in Russia earn in two years. So nobody whines or complains to journalists about life. Naturally, they are not paid for nothing. Account is taken of the harsh climate, with temperatures close to 40 degrees, so they have to fly wearing just shorts; the tropical diseases; and the isolation from home. Also, it goes without saying, the increased danger is considered. In the space of a year several observers have been taken hostage, and the white-painted helicopters, despite the UN markings, have been shot at more than 20 times—one was downed by the Khmer Rouge, and its pilots were gotten out of the jungle only thanks to a miracle and the bravery of the backup crew. The situation is becoming increasingly strained with the approach of the elections.

"And yet, is such a risk justified?" I asked Colonel General Vitaliy Pavlov, commander of the ground forces' aircraft, who flew me into Phnom Penh. "Did we not get enough zinc coffins arriving in Russia from Afghanistan?"

[Pavlov] "Well, first, Cambodia should not be compared with Afghanistan—the scale of the conflict is different. We are here quite legitimately, under a UN mandate. Second, pilots are frequently at risk at home, in Russia, as well—it is part of the job. Here, incidentally, we have not yet lost a single man," the commander tapped a wooden table. "There are several reasons for being in Cambodia. To maintain the prestige of Russia and its army—because the United Nations does not concludes contracts with every country's air force by any means. To secure a flow of currency into the country, which we need to construct housing for the officers being withdrawn from East Europe and neighboring countries. In the space of a year approximately $2 million has been transferred to the Defense Ministry's budget with the assistance of the Airmen's Support Fund, to be used to construct apartments in central Russia. Incidentally, we deliberately plan to let personnel earn a little extra, so we endeavor to pass as many as possible through Cambodia, and that way there are no grievances. And, of course, to keep the crews on form. It is no secret that our Army fliers are not being allocated enough kerosene these days, so flying opportunities are extremely limited—hence, ultimately, an increase in the accident rate. But here fuel is not measured out, as it were, and you can fly as much as you want to. Some crews fulfill their annual norm in one month...." [passage omitted]

...Today 30 MI-17's (the export, slightly modernized version of the well-known MI-8) and six MI-26's—the giant helicopters which impressed Western military specialists at the recent exhibition of arms and military hardware in Abu Dhabi—are working in Cambodia. The helicopter pool of the Russian Ground Forces has been seriously criticized recently: The machines are obsolete and do not meet modern requirements in terms of a number of indicators, and their quality of manufacture is low. And yet we have brought them abroad.

"Yes, many of our machines have already passed the limit of physical wear and obsolescence," Vitaliy Pavlov confirmed. "The delivery of new ones has been virtually ended because of the lack of funding. In 1992, for example, the allocations for the ground forces' aircraft amounted to just 2.6 percent of the whole sum allocated to Air Force needs. There is no question of any fat here, and we have to squeeze the last out of what we have. And yet, as regards Cambodia, in my view our hardware is putting up a perfectly decent showing here. Take that same MI-17: In operations of this kind its simplicity is even a plus, because it still surpasses a number of similar foreign aircraft in terms of carrying capacity, speed, and survivability. Here is a French Puma—ask its pilots what they prefer. This is not to mention the MI-26 at all—it is a miracle of technology...."

I was told at the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] Press Center in Phnom Penh that the quality of the Russian helicopter pilots' work is rated very highly. Special note was made of their dependability and their readiness to fulfill any missions, even the most dangerous. According to one UNTAC employee, options for using helicopters and crews from Russia in UN

peacemaking operations in Mozambique, Somalia, and Ethiopia are now being examined.

True, there is not yet a great deal of optimism about the results of the UN mission's year-long stay in Cambodia. There is continuing opposition here, the elections are in jeopardy, and the country is teetering on the verge of a split. Is there not something offensive about taking part in an operation which increasingly runs the risk of ending in failure?

Colonel Rafael Zakirov, commander of the Russian group, gave this answer:

"Let the UNTAC leadership have the headache over that. We are soldiers and do not interfere in politics. Our task is to provide the United Nations with helicopters, to fly, and, preferably, not to go down."

Iran Said Ready to Give Up Mass Destruction Weapons

PM1005120793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 93 p 3

["Own Information", ITAR-TASS report: "Iran Ready To Destroy Mass Destruction Weapons"]

[Text] Iran has expressed readiness to rid itself of plants manufacturing mass destruction weapons built under the shah.

Hamid Reza Asefi, general director of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for relations with Europe, said that Tehran wants to see the Near and Middle East region free from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons. According to Asefi, Iran is ready to cooperate in attaining this aim with any state or states and also with international organizations. Western technical aid could ease the conversion of certain Iranian military plants, the diplomat stressed.

Officials Attend Monaco Economic Conference

LD1005152193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Batyrev]

[Text] Paris May 10 TASS—What business opportunities are being opened up by ongoing economic reforms in Russia? This subject was discussed by a representative international conference, which ended in Monaco today. It was organised jointly by the Economics Academy under the Russian Government and several Western companies.

The conference was attended by Russian Vice-Premiers Anatoliy Chubays and Aleksandr Shokhin, Chairman of the Russian Central Bank Viktor Gerashchenko, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Sergey Glazyev, representatives of the Moscow and St. Petersburg authorities, delegates from the Nizhnyy Novgorod region, and heads of several Russian commercial banks. The Western side was represented by leading experts and businessmen from France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, the United States and Sweden.

"The importance of such conferences is not limited merely to speeches and debates," ITAR-TASS was told by Rector of the Economics Academy Abel Aganbegyan. The Russian delegates had about 100 bilateral and numerous multilateral meetings with Western businessmen during the past two days. They discussed concrete cooperation projects.

Discuss Economic Situation

LD0905175093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 9 May 93

[Text] Rome, 9 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays believes that the rate of inflation in Russia can be reduced to 4 percent a month by the end of year if efficient steps are urgently taken on deepening the reforms. He was speaking at a meeting of Russian and Western economists, organized by the Russian Academy of the Economy and the Geneva association "Multimarketing Group," which took place in Monaco.

Anatoliy Chubays stressed that during the recent referendum the Russian people clearly came out in favor of the reforms. However, in his opinion, during the coming months the slump in the exchange rate of the ruble to dollar will continue and stabilization may be achieved at a level of 1,400 rubles to the dollar.

Another vice premier, Aleksandr Shokhin, who also spoke at the meeting, believes that the Russian currency should not be allowed to drop below 1,000 rubles per dollar, since the economy could suffocate. He stressed that there is a possibility of implementing the needed currency intervention to support the ruble exchange rate. On the one hand, the Russian Central Bank has partially restored its hard currency reserves, bringing them to almost $1 billion. On the other hand, a special stabilization currency fund made up at the expense of the funds provided by the Western countries could be used toward this aim.

Abel Aganbegyan, president of the Russian academy of the economy, believes that an increase in prices for industrial goods this year could make up 400-450 percent, unless tough financial curbs are introduced. In his opinion Russia should introduce its own currency. Apart from this a law on bankruptcy should begin to work, which is being hindered by the Russian Parliament.

Central Bank Chairman Viktor Gerashchenko stressed that in May- June, as part of the policy of toughening the credit policy, the Central Bank will introduce a system of auctioning credits. Such a step will intensify competition between the commercial banks and promote the growth of discount rates so as to bring them into line with the current economic situation.

Talks Held With EC Delegates in St. Petersburg

LD0705155393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1503 GMT 7 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg May 7 TASS—Negotiations to conclude a partnership and cooperation agreement between Russia and the European Community shall be continued. The fourth round of these talks, which ended here today, has only clarified the approaches of both sides to this problem.

ITAR-TASS has learned from Russian delegates to the talks that the current difficulties were due to the fact that the European Community had submitted a new draft of such an agreement only 24 hours before the opening of the talks. Its detailed and thorough analysis will take some time.

The 2-day meeting, which took place at the local house of friendship and peace with foreign nations, proceeded behind clsoed doors. It focused mainly on the free movement of goods, services, manpower and capital. Leader of the EC Delegation, assistant director of the EC Commission's Directorate for Foreign Economic Relations Pablo Benavides, said that the European Community was not prepared for the time being to give Russian producers access to its markets, because Russia was still not a market economy nation. But expanding bilateral cooperation gives ground for optimism.

Minister Sums Up Results of World Environmental Conference

PM1005151193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Yuriy Kovalenko: "Western Credits Will Help Russia To Solve Its Environmental Problems"]

[Text] Lucerne, Paris—What a striking contrast there is between the colossal sum we were prepared to spend on our defense against communism and the pitiful amount we wish to allocate to save ourselves from the consequences of environmental pollution, Danish Environment Minister Svend Auken angrily exclaimed. But it is a question of life and death!

In the opinion of his German colleague Klaus Toepfer, the ecological factor and a "healthy" environment play a key role in the fact that average life expectancy in West Europe is eight years longer than in East Europe.

Certainly, those at the "Environment for Europe" conference—in which some 50 ministers from the Old World, the United States, and Australia took part—who were expecting hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars to be made instantly available to urgently patch up "holes" in the environment were disappointed. This is true of several East European delegations in particular. Nevertheless, the conference, which was held in the Swiss city of Lucerne with the active involvement of the Council of Europe and the World Bank, fulfilled its task. It acted as a catalyst for future changes in environmental policy, in the way projects are financed, and, perhaps most important of all, in public awareness, Russian Environment Minister Viktor Danilov-Danilyan stressed in a conversation with me. The political declaration adopted at the conference in Lucerne creates a basis for guaranteed credit from the EC, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and so on. In particular, it approved a program of action to protect the environment in Central and East Europe.

What is the situation with regard to solving Russia's environmental problems with the help of international institutions and our Western partners? What are our hopes for the near future?

"We and the World Bank have virtually completed work to give Russia an environmental loan—initially in the region of $1 million," V. Danilov-Danilyan said. "It will be used to finance several environmental programs, concerning Lake Baykal in particular, and also to supply conservation organs with the latest communications and data processing facilities.

"Another loan of hundreds of millions of dollars given to Russia by the World Bank," the minister continued, "will be used to prevent losses of casing-head petroleum gas, which are very considerable in our country. We are talking about the Tyumen oil fields. It is planned to build a trans-Urals gas pipeline to carry this gas to the European part of Russia.

"We are also working on an oil project with the World Bank," V. Danilov-Danilyan said, "which envisages allocating resources to rehabilitate disused oil wells, of which we have tens of thousands.

"Germany is our largest single donor country," V. Danilov-Danilyan stressed. "It recently allocated 1 million marks to Russia to be spent on a joint project to monitor environmentally dangerous installations, and we will start with our nuclear power plants. In addition, we are successfully cooperating with Norway, Sweden, and Finland. Incidentally, Oslo financed a joint Russian-Norwegian expedition last summer, which studied radiation pollution in the Barents and Kara Seas. We are working with Norway and Finland on the problems of modernizing the main sources of pollution on the Kola Peninsula: the 'Pechenganikel' and 'Severonikel' Combines.

"The conference in Lucerne," V. Danilov-Danilyan said in conclusion, "discussed the serious question of introducing a tax on carbon dioxide emissions. These emissions are the main factor in global warming, which will have a multitude of negative consequences. So we feel this tax is necessary. Russia plans to introduce it this year and use the revenue to protect the environment."

Political Issues

Yeltsin Releases Deputy Premier Khizha From Post

LD1105091893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree today releasing Deputy Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha from his post in connection with his transfer to another job. INTERFAX learned this from the president's press service.

Releases Skokov From Post

LD1105092593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0900 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree relieving Yuriy Skokov of his post of secretary of the Security Council in connection with a different appointment, the press service of the Russian president reported today.

The decree was signed on May 10.

Yuriy Skokov, 60, was appointed to this post in April, 1992. His relations with the president aggravated this spring when together with Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy he did not express unequivocal support for Boris Yeltsin's address to the people of March 20 and refused to initial the presidential decrees on a special form of government in Russia. Skokov told a Congress of People's Deputies on March 26: "We have no crisis of power. Russia has the crisis of statehood. We do not know what kind of state we want to build and by what principles we should be guided".

"I think Skokov distanced himself from the president. I don't think he is a firm supporter of the president", the presidential press secretary then said. He said that he had followed Skokov's activity for considerable time at the Council of Heads of Republics within the Russian Federation and he arrived at the conclusion that "it was Skokov who turned this body into an antipresidential conference".

"Taking into account the referendum's results, the president's apparatus should consist of supporters of reforms", said Sergey Filatov, the head of the president's administration. He said that Skokov "does not support president in many aspects".

Shakhray Refutes Appointment

LD1005171993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Sergey Shakhray is refuting rumors regarding his possible appointment to the post of secretary of the Russian Federation Security Council. He regards them as fiction. The dissemination of the rumors regarding a possible appointment of Shakhray to the post of secretary of the Security Council started at the end of last week when a number of Russian media outlets reported on a principled decision of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to release Yuriy Skokov from this post.

Stepashin May Replace Skokov

LD1105112093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 11 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] We learned today that Boris Yeltsin released Yuriy Skokov from the post of secretary of the Security Council in connection with another appointment. According to the presidential press service, the decree was signed on 10 May, namely after Boris Yeltsin's address to the people on 8 May in which he said that those who disagree with the policy of the president should leave.

May I remind you that Yuriy Skokov, together with [Vice President] Aleksandr Rutskoy and [Constitutional Court chairman] Valeriy Zorkin, spoke against the presidential address of 20 March. [passage omitted]

[Deputy Prime Minister] Sergey Shakray has already denied rumors that he will replace Skokov. According to some sources, Sergey Stepashin [chairman of the Supreme Soviet Defense and Security Committee] couuld be the man for the job.

Yeltsin Chairs Constitution 'Working Group' Session

LD1105140793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1306 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent Yuliy Semenov has just phoned the editorial office from the Kremlin, he has an important and urgent report. We are listening.

[Semenov] Good afternoon. Literally several minutes ago a sitting of the working group for examining a draft new Russian Federation Constitution has opened in the Oval Hall in the Kremlin. Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia, is in the chair. There are not so many people here, but all of them are famous people. They are leaders of many republics and many Russian departments, famous lawyers, and specialists.

Starting the conversation, the president said that representatives of many subjects of the Federation expressed the wish to get together for such a preliminary conversation on a draft constitution with the participation of all those who were involved in drawing up this draft. The president stressed that the draft has a somewhat mixed and all-embracing nature, that amendments—amendments of various kinds—are being received and that it is time to set up a group to analyze and examine all these amendments. Incidentally, he stressed once again that the initiative for convening this working group has come from below—from leaders of the subjects of

the Federation, who, in his opinion, are the true representatives of democracy. Many of those present took part in drawing up the draft and submitted their amendments and proposals, and now the president thinks that this conference should become not just a mere working body to examine the draft Constitution, but it should become the beginning of the formation of the Council of the Federation—incidentally, not some temporary structure as at present, but with a prospect of becoming a chamber—in fact an upper chamber of the future parliament—the Council of the Federation. Yeltsin says: "You are forming the federation and you will have to sit in the upper chamber of the parliament, then first and foremost it should be you who are to work on the draft constitution and adopt it in the future."

That is how this conversation started. I know that opinions are most varied here and I think the debate will be most heated. That is all I can say on the basis of my first impressions of the sitting.

Yeltsin Boycott on Constitutional Commission Hit

PM1005141193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Shinkin report: "Clash Over Basis of Constitution"]

[Text] Speaking on television on 6 May Boris Yeltsin said in a now undisguisedly imperial tone that the Russian Supreme Soviet decision to convene the Constitutional Commission was unlawful.

Nevertheless, the session did take place. As expected, despite an invitation, the president and his representatives did not attend. Ruslan Khasbulatov, in his capacity as first deputy chairman of the commission, noted on this score that their absence "does not relieve us of the necessity for hard work." Citing data on hand, he said that 60 percent of the president's draft "had been carried over" from the draft drawn up by the Constitutional Commission.

At the same time he called for agreement to be found, but this must not be done by making concessions. "Everything sensible must be taken into account. That too will form an element of civic peace." Ruslan Khasbulatov urged people "to eschew a personalized approach and not identify a draft with a specific individual, but to take account of the interests of the state and the people."

In his opinion, "the constitutional road of development presupposes the adoption of a constitution via state institutions, via the Congress," since the referendum showed society's desire to maintain the existing, albeit imperfect, authorities.

However, any sensible proposal is doomed today, judging by the president's speech. Having let his entourage persuade him of the need for radical measures, he intends to force his way through. You can usually bank on his doing that. The people are remaining silent for the time being. And whoever opens his mouth can be shut up with a nightstick, more's the pity.

Shakhray Says Deputies Cannot Adopt Constitution

PM1105084993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 May 93 p 2

[Unattributed report from the "Events, Facts, Opinions" roundup: "The President Is Entitled To Convene Constituent Assembly"]

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray believes that the president, guided by the referendum results, does have the constitutional right to convene a constituent assembly or other organ to adopt the country's new Fundamental Law. "The majority of voters who took part in the referendum voted for fresh elections of the deputies' corps, so it has no right to adopt a new Fundamental Law, and it hardly appears feasible today to hold another referendum on the fundamental provisions of the constitution," the vice premier said.

Constitutional Court's Plans for May Outlined

PM1105131793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 May 93 p 2

[Sergey Ovsiyenkko report: "Constitutional Court Inundated With Petitions and Appeals"]

[Text] According to a Constitutional Court Press Service report, the court's backlog runs to 200 petitions and appeals. After the holiday period—11 May—judges will set about examining cases.

Top of the list is a petition from Magadan Oblast Soviet of People's Deputies and Russian People's Deputy S. Petrishchev asking for the legality of the Russian Federation 17 June 1992 Law "On Chukotsk Autonomous Oblast's Direct Membership of the Russian Federation" to be verified. It is suggested by the oblast soviet and Russian people's deputy that Chukotsk Autonomous Oblast's isolation from Magadan Oblast entailed negative socioeconomic consequences, and that the law was adopted in violation of a number of constitutional provisions and existing legislation.

It is planned to examine on 14 May an appeal by IZVESTIYA's journalistic collective, along with a petition from S. Shakhray, former Russian people's deputy and presently vice premier, and Russian Federation People's Deputies A. Kotenkov and I. Bezrukov for the constitutionality of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 17 July 1992 Decree "On IZVESTIYA" to be verified. In the petitioning side's opinion the Supreme Soviet adopted the decree in violation of the procedure, and the decree is inconsistent with the constitutional principles of the separation of powers and with the demarcation of areas of jurisdiction between the federal organs of power and Federation subjects.

The Constitutional Court will decide on 18 May the issue of verifying the constitutionality of the Congress of People's Deputies Decree "On Measures to Guarantee Free Speech in State Television and Radio Broadcasting and in News Services." Two large groups of Russian Federation people's deputies have submitted petitions on the aforementioned decree.

It is planned to examine on 21 May the constitutionality of the Congress of People's Deputies Decree "On Measures to Implement Constitutional Reform (on the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies Decree 'On the Stability of the Russian Federation's Constitutional Order')," following a petition from Deputies V. Volkov, S. Yushenkov, L. Ponomarev, and others.

A petition for the restoration of the constitutional rights of depositors with the Savings Bank and holders of state securities will be discussed at the 25 May Constitutional Court sitting.

There are also plans to examine petitions from Mordovian SSR President V. Guslyannikov and Russian Federation People's Deputies V. Utkin, S. Krasavchenko, and P. Filippov for the constitutionality of the Mordovian SSR Laws "On Abolishing the Post of President of the Mordovian SSR," and "On Introducing Amendments and Additions to the Mordovian SSR Constitution" to be verified.

Anpilov Kidnapped, Beaten; Proceedings Under Way

LD1005153993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] We have received an interesting report. The procurator's office of Solntsevo rayon has taken out proceedings concerning the case of the unlawful deprivation of freedom of Viktor Anpilov, the Moscow people's deputy and chairman of the executive committee of the coordinating council of the Working Russia movement. As a CRIME-PRESS correspondent was told by Vyacheslav Glukhov, the duty procurator of Russia's regional procuracy, on 9 May Anpilov was seized by 10 unknown persons in the region of Butovo, beaten up, and thrown out by his kidnappers in the area of Kryukovo station. The victim had two broken fingers and blows all over his body. Sergey Surkin, deputy procurator of Solntsevo rayon, has left for the scene of the incident.

Criminal proceedings based on Article 126 of the Criminal Code—unlawful deprivation of freedom—have been instigated in respect of this incident. The identity of the kidnappers has not yet been established. As Vyacheslav Glukhov reported, following a study of the materials, the case will be passed on for further examination by the Russian Procuracy.

Well, yesterday, as we know, rumors were going round that Anpilov had disappeared somewhere. Well, thank God, things have turned out more or less OK.

Procurator General Issues Statement

LD1105141093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 11 May 93

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—The Russian procurator general's office has circulated the following statement here today:

The Russian procurator general's office called Viktor Anpilov for interrogation on May 8 in connection with the investigation into the Moscow riots on May 1.

He came to the office with a companion, who waited for Anpilov at the procurator's office building. The interrogation was video- recorded. Upon the interrogation completion, Anpilov was offered to come to the procurator's office right after the V-Day to sign the protocol on the record interpretation and other investigation actions.

Anpilov left the office together with his companion.

On the next day unidentified persons started to phone heads of the procurator's office investigation team to threaten them and voice demands in connection with Anpilov's disappearance. The phone calls, mainly anonymous, were insulting, sometimes ultimatum and blackmailing.

The procurator general's office estimates such actions as an attempt to press on the investigators to prevent them from establishing the truth and identifying actual participants in and organizers of Moscow developments on May 1. At the same time, the procurator general's office states, despite the interference, it will take all measures to carry out a comprehensive and objective investigation.

As need be, it will fully use the powers granted to the procurator's office by law to prevent any pressure on the investigators.

As for circumstances of Anpilov's absence from Moscow on May 9, Anpilov's wife I. Tskhovrebashvili claims her husband and she were kidnapped by a group of unidentified persons on the night of May 8, beaten up and illegally kept for a day. In this connection the Moscow Solntsevo District procurator's office has instituted criminal proceedings on signs of the crime (part 2, Article 126 of the Russian criminal code (illegal deprivation of freedom). Investigation into the case has begun.

According to medical examination results, there are no medical contra-indications for Anpilov participation in the investigation.

Yeltsin Greets, Khasbulatov Addresses Kurchatov Institute

LD1105100093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0811 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin described the Kurchatov Institute as one of scientific centres of the reviving Russia. He sent the congratulatory message to the institute on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Nikolay Malyshev, the presidential scientific adviser, read out the message at a session of the institute's Academic Council that opened on Tuesday [11 May].

The Russian president believes the Kurchatov Institute has a unique basis for experiments and unique intellectual resources. The institute enjoys prestige in the world and generates numerous ideas. Researchers of the centre have never kept apart from the solution of social and political problems. The institute is now trying out a new form of the organisation of science in Russia—a scientific centre.

Parliamentary Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov addressed the Academic Council's session on Tuesday. "In the present eventful life there are dates that should not be forgotten, among them Victory Day", the parliamentary speaker said. "Since that day, for nearly 50 years our country has been protected by a reliable shield in whose creation researchers of the Kurchatov Institute actively participated".

Khasbulatov said that at present the country's leadership gives insufficient attention to problems of science. He expressed the hope that a special parliamentary session will be held to make specific decisions to maintain the material base of Russian research organisations.

Roundup of Recent Government Decisions

PM1005102993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 May 93 p 1

[Unattributed "Council of Ministers-Monitoring" roundup]

[Text] **April 27**

The draft Agreement Between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of Kyrgyzstan on Cooperation in the Protection of Consumer Rights has been approved. The sides, taking into account the importance of the coordination of scientific research with regard to improving legislation on the protection of consumer rights, the formation and development of a market in goods and services for the population, and the testing of goods and services from the consumer's viewpoint, aim to create an effective system for the protection of consumer rights and prevent uncivilized enterprise.

The Council of Ministers has set a ceiling on the number of workers of the central apparatus of Russia's Federal Nuclear and Radiation Safety Inspectorate. Henceforth 215 people will work there.

April 28

The statute on the registration of cinema and video movies and the regulations governing the registration and issue of rental certificates for them has been approved. The registration of cinema and video movies and the regulation of their public display have been introduced to combat the unlawful use of these forms of visual entertainment. It is also laid down that, according to local traditions, customs, and the ethnic composition of the region in question, the executive organs there may set age restrictions on viewers and determine their own procedure for the public showing of cinema and video movies.

A procedure has been established for forming prices for energy sources supplied to the member states of the CIS as well as to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Georgia, and the Republics of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia. It is laid down that in the absence of bilateral or multilateral agreements on the terms for the supply of energy sources or the absence from those agreements of accords on prices, natural gas, coal, shale, enriched coal and briquettes, oil (including gas condensate), and oil and gas products will be supplied by enterprises and supplier organizations at foreign trade prices based on the average world prices for energy sources calculated in rubles or in the relevant national currency at the Russian Federation Central Bank rate obtaining on the 15th day of the month in question.

For the purpose of stepping up the social protection of enlisted men and officers of the Russian Federation's internal affairs organs serving in remote locations salaries have been raised by 100 percent. The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs has been empowered to set for militia staffers serving in areas of the Far North and adjacent localities enhanced rates of pay based on regional allowances.

The Association of the Small Peoples of the North has been allocated 22 million rubles to hold its second congress in the Russian capital in July 1993.

Viktor Chernomyrdin has invited E. Balladur, prime minister of France, to pay an official visit to Russia in the second half of 1993. J. Chirac, mayor of Paris, will visit Russia at the invitation of Yu. Luzhkov, mayor of Moscow.

The statute on the interdepartmental commission on the problem of geological safeguards for the safe burial of radioactive waste and on its personnel has been approved. N. Laverov, vice president of the Russian Academy of Sciences, has been appointed chairman of the commission.

The proposal of the Russian Committee for Mineral Resources [Roskomnedr] and the administration of Magadan Oblast and the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug

to hold international tenders for the right to search and prospect for and extract oil and gas in sections of the continental shelf in the Sea of Okhotsk and the Barents Sea has been approved.

May 4

The central organs of the federal executive have been sent the general agreement between the All-Russian Associations of Trade Unions, the All-Russian Associations of Employers, and the Russian Federation Government for 1993 signed by Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government. The agreement envisages the creation of conditions for stabilizing the economy, promoting employment, and developing the labor market, contains measures to regulate incomes and carry out the phased reduction of the gap between the minimum living wage and the minimum wage, defines measures for the social protection of the population, labor protection, and ecological safety, and proposes a system of social partnership.

Yeltsin Opts for 'Ignoring' Deputies

PM1005151793 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 May 93 p 1

[Andrey Podkopalov report: "I Will Fight, But Not With You"]

[Text] The state of emergency to which the Bolsheviks so aspired will not come about. This became clear after B. Yeltsin's televised speech on the referendum results. The president explained his next steps with the utmost clarity. And there is simply no place in his plans for a further battle with parliament.

It is perfectly clear that the tactic of ignoring the body of deputies and its leaders has been chosen: As if to say—You exist, but in actual fact you are not there.

This is the only possible way to evaluate Yeltsin's following statement: "...decisions which obstruct the implementation of reforms and destabilize the atmosphere in the country must be rescinded and never more adopted."

No less indicative in this sense is the content of the specific points of the president's program—the Supreme Soviet does not figure in a single one of them, not even in the capacity of a consultative organ. And even the holy of holies—Russia's Constitution—is being removed from the competence of the congress and parliament: The president declared unequivocally that the Fundamental Law will be "created through the joint efforts of Federation subjects and the federal power."

Nor is Yeltsin's statement about the "illegality" of the session of the Constitutional Commission—officially headed by Yeltsin—convened yesterday on R. Khasbulatov's insistence a coincidence. Presidential representative S. Shakhray also failed to attend the session, claiming illness.

As a result, the Constitutional Commission adopted a decree under which it is proposed that the president, in conjunction with parliamentary representatives, form a working group to complete work on the draft of the Russian Federation Constitution.

However, the president will probably ignore this proposal, as it is obvious that, for Yeltsin, the stage of any kind of joint work with the Supreme Soviet has already passed.

Cabinet Reshuffle, Gaydar's Future Eyed

PM1005125593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 93 p 1

[Sergey Razin report: "The Union Ministers and Gaydar: Second Coming"]

[Text] At a recent press conference, Communist Party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov welcomed with great pleasure Oleg Lobov's appointment as first vice premier. Admittedly, the chief Communist did not explain precisely what attracted him to someone from the president's closest entourage—an entourage which, according to the neobolsheviks, is about to ruin Russia. To all appearances, this strange love affair can be explained by at least two theories.

First, at the time when he was in charge of Sverdlovsk Oblast, Oleg Lobov, "well versed in party work," raised the oblast to the position of leader in the production of laying hens and broilers.

Second, O. Lobov was placed at the head of the Ministry of the Economy and has already drafted a new statute on this organ, elevating it to the ranks of the former State Planning Committee and intending it not only to distribute money and resources, but also to direct enterprises under any form of ownership on where, when, and at what price to produce and sell.

Oleg Soskovets, former USSR minister of metallurgy, has become first vice premier (one of three, alongside V. Shumeyko and O. Lobov). Political experts perceive this appointment as V. Chernomyrdin's countermove to the return to the government of O. Lobov, an old associate of the president.

As a result, a blatant distortion in favor of the sectoral lobbyists has developed in the Cabinet of Ministers immediately after the referendum.

Oleg Soskovets declared that metallurgical enterprises must be given more working capital, and that it is also necessary to overcome the tendency toward the drastic relaxation of state regulation in this sector. But the main difference of opinion between the new vice premier and reformers of the first wave lies in their views on privatization. Whereas Chubays' policy clearly leads to "pulverizing the icebergs" of the state sector into joint-stock and private firms, Soskovets' intention is to have state sector owners retain the controlling share blocks of enterprises.

As a matter of fact, it cannot be ruled out that the new vice premier's traditionalist views may alter. Several facts suggest this idea: Oleg Soskovets is just 44 years old, so in terms of age he is very much a recruit of the Gaydar team. What is more, he carved out his really dazzling career thanks to his commercial talent.

There is a notable redistribution of power in the Cabinet of Ministers. O. Soskovets and O. Lobov have proved so hard-working that they have already shared almost all of G. Khizha's official duties among themselves, including running the conversion and the defense industry.

Observers assume that Khizha compromised himself in the eyes of the president and the premier as far back as last January, when he spearheaded the notorious action with the price freezes.

An anti-Gaydar coup in the economy was expected at the 29 April enlarged government session. However, nothing of the sort has happened so far. It is perfectly possible to evaluate the results of the "big Council of Ministers" as a "fighting draw after the first round" [boyevaya nichya poslye pervogo perioda]. As for what will happen in the second—I would not be too sure about that.

By far the most dangerous element of Chernomyrdin's program for "advancing" the reforms is the talk about "elaborating a package of measures to step up state influence over the economy." This combat task has been assigned to the Ministry of the Economy, and to Vice Premier O. Lobov personally. He has been given one month. It is already clear to everybody just what these measure will be. It is a matter of reviving the "patrolled" economy.

But it is hardly worth exaggerating this danger: It is stipulated that key Ministry of the Economy decisions can only be adopted with the consent of the Ministry of Finance. That is, both Lobov and Fedorov, according to the president's wish, "are shackled in one and the same pair of handcuffs." Moreover, in his speech at the Council of Ministers, Yeltsin obviously backed Chubays and his privatization plan which, within three or four months, will radically alter the situation in industry. Furthermore, V. Shumeyko has been tasked with implementing personnel policy in the government, which is a time bomb both for overet and covert opponents of reform. A report has already been leaked to the press that the president has discussed with Shumeyko the possibility of replacing the current premier.

Gaydar's return to the government is a matter of time. The majority of experts incline toward this conclusion, and so do Premiers A. Shokhin and V. Shumeyko, who declared this at recent press conferences.

In April, Gaydar became president of the association of enterprises undergoing privatization and those which are already private, which has embraced such giants as "Uralmash" and "AvtoVAZ," and which swells its ranks by nigh on 100 members a week. In essence, the former premier has been put at the head of the staff of a new sector of the economy which already stretches across 50 regions of Russia, including both capitals.

An interregional conference of this association took place at the end of April, at which Ye. Gaydar delivered a program report. He noted that the sectoral ministries are trying to quash privatization and to preserve a departmental economy. Therefore, it is vital to support and strengthen the reformist wing in the government, the weakening of which would lead to curtailment of reforms and discrimination against the private sector.

As announced by Gaydar's apparatus, he did indeed interrupt an official visit abroad at the end of April. As we know, soon afterward Chernomyrdin expressed a wish to meet with Yegor Timurovich personally and to offer him the post of vice premier. Although this meeting did take place, a decision has not been made as yet. But for the premier, it seems, it is becoming increasingly clear that the real chances of consolidating his positions lie in a rapprochement with the reformist wing.

So far, admittedly, Chernomyrdin does have room to maneuver in order to play a "double hand," simultaneously moving in diametrically opposed directions: toward state control and a free market. Obviously, such vagueness is largely attributable to the fact that Yeltsin has been forced to hold back.

The fact is that, on the eve of the referendum, he secured for himself the support of industrialists who have not yet managed to switch from the state sector to a joint-stock future. But the process has begun, and it is gaining momentum. Given that the president does not intend to surrender Chubays to anybody, he is simply providing time to strengthen the new sector of the economy and to establish it as an influential political force.

So how much longer is there to wait? Addressing the interregional conference of private owners and shareholders, A. Chubays said: "Within literally two or three months a significant proportion of GNP will be produced not by the state sector but by joint-stock companies."

Shakhray Speaks to Roundtable on Regional Policy

LD0705164293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 7 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Mineyev]

[Text] Moscow May 7 TASS—Economic reform, federalism and broad local self-government are the three pillars of the regional policy which will save Russia from break-up and which underlie the draft constitution proposed by President Boris Yeltsin.

This idea keynotes a report delivered by Sergey Shakhray, Russian deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Committee for the Affairs of the Federation and Nationalities, at the fifth session of the round-table

conference today. The conference involved leaders of parliamentary factions, major political parties and movements, researcher economists and representatives of local government bodies.

Shakhray noted that if inflation is not tamed and the rouble ultimately collapses, there will be no money to pay wages to the army and the state apparatus and regions will switch to barter. In such conditions, the state will naturally not be preserved. Therefore, financial stabilisation and economic reform are now a matter of keeping the Russian state together, Shakhray emphasised.

Yeltsin Measures Against Opposition Derided

PM1005151393 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 May 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Frolov "Observer's Opinion": "Promises and Maneuvers"]

[Text] In its vagueness and for what it left out, B. Yeltsin's television address the day before yesterday probably provoked a certain disappointment in those of his admirers who are hankering for "the most resolute measures" against the opposition ranging from dissolving parliament to shooting at protest demonstrations. However, nor should the opposition harbor any illusions about a certain "mildness" on the president's part. This mildness is dictated not by his "liberalism" and penchant for "democratic procedures" but by a whole range of objective restraining factors.

First, the president is in no hurry to lay all his trump cards on the table at once, thereby leaving himself room for maneuver. The promised package of edicts, including the tough ones, are already said to be ready and will be unleashed on the world in dribs and drabs depending on the prevailing circumstances.

Second, the failure of the 1 May provocation in Moscow is complete. On the one hand, it was unable to establish significant grounds for introducing a state of emergency in the capital, and on the other hand it demonstrated the low combat effectiveness of the punitive detachments and the authorities' lack of any real forces or means to maintain a state of emergency regime on a major scale. It only remains to wait for a more convenient occasion (9 May, for example) while continuing to give the official mass media the main role in persecuting and defaming the opposition and parliament as a whole.

Third, the president's support at the referendum is certainly not as unconditional as some people are attempting to depict it. Having noted that the majority of those who took part in voting in 87 districts were in favor of early elections of people's deputies, B. Yeltsin modestly passed over the fact that

58 regions voted for his own early reelection,
43 regions did not approve his socioeconomic policy and
29 regions expressed lack of confidence in him personally.
And, most annoying of all, these included 14 republics.

At a time when the president is intending to rely on the support of components of the Federation in his struggle with the opposition and the Supreme Soviet at the center, this in particular diminishes his chances of success.

The five-point action plan announced by the president is constructed in such a way that the most varied interpretations may be placed on it. Which of these is the right one, however? Experience of acquaintance with B. Yeltsin's campaign promises compels us to learn to read between the lines. Three of the points are completely obvious and standard—the struggle against inflation and crime and a new cadre policy. What does this mean in practice?

In free-market conditions there is only one reliable way of combating inflation—cut state spending, particularly social spending, freeze pay, and face up to mass unemployment. How such measures can be squared with the promises dished out on the eve of the referendum to everybody and anybody regarding concessions and subsidies, Boris Nikolayevich alone knows.

Listening to his assurances about the struggle against crime, many people pricked up their ears at the phrase about the need for "fast and streamlined legal proceedings." The same sort of thing was introduced 1 December 1934, and the consequences are well known. Can the president be intending to repeat something similar?

Improving cadre policy in tandem with threats directed at anyone who blocks the "reforms" policy compels us to assume that the old Burbulis idea of combating "nomenklatura revanchism" has been taken out of mothballs, which in practice means drumming out skilled managerial cadres and possibly adopting a law establishing a professional ban [on former nomenklatura officials].

Basically, the president has no serious new program in the socioeconomic sphere. His main interest lies in a different area, namely strengthening his personal power, a task which is connected with the two remaining points in his program—adopting a new Constitution and "strengthening the Federation."

The draft Constitution asks for so much in the way of presidential powers that it is clear they will become a bargaining chip. By conceding some of these, the president might even hope to win some concessions from the deputies, but his hopes of doing this are nevertheless very slim. Therefore the main problem facing him today is how to cobble together a "constituent assembly" as quickly as possible and bypass the present Constitution and Congress. In this instance he is gambling on "strengthening the Federation," in other words hatching a deal with local bureaucracies and strengthening the power of "individual princes" in exchange for their support of the president's authoritarian pretensions at the center.

The near future will show how realistic this program is, but it is clear that its implementation will continue to lead the country into an economic and political blind alley.

Prosecutor on Measures To Curb Violence

PM1005154793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 May 93 p 2

[Interview with Russian General Prosecutor V.G. Stepankov by Lyubov Tsukanova; place, date not given: "Valentin Stepankov: 'Measures To Curb Violence Must Be Tougher'"]

[Text] [Tsukanova] Valentin Georgiyevich, you have been spending a lot of time in parliament, particularly in recent weeks. Everyone is talking of the need to fight corruption. Tell me, is the legislative base adequate to investigate cases of corruption?

[Stepankov] For starting an investigation, for instituting proceedings against someone for specific bribetaking, for specific negligence, for a specific abuse of his official position, or for exceeding his powers—the legislative base is adequate. But, as frequently happens, a person whose actions are directly and causally linked with a consequence might be liable for this. But those who somehow contributed indirectly to a crime frequently get left out. Our legislation has a very primitive understanding, I would say, of what a bribe is. If someone has taken a bribe, we must find objective confirmation that he did something for this, or did not do something even though he was obliged to do it according to his own official instructions. But if he has contributed indirectly to the adoption of some unlawful decision and if all this has been turned quite subtly to advantage, then our legislation today does not enable criminal proceedings to be instituted against such a person.

[Tsukanova] Which legislative decisions are lacking for this?

[Stepankov] I do not think that criminal legislation precisely is capable of resolving this question and ending abuses of this kind. What is needed here is more perfect laws in the economic sphere. Today, when a redistribution of property is taking place, as little as possible must depend on the specific official, and there must be as much openness as possible in this process.

Probably more than one state has been through these stages, and I am not at all sure that our situation is any worse than it was in other countries which have already been through all this. France, for example, also took some economic steps when it gave full economic freedom and legalized all "black" capital. They went through this. We are not doing this, because we understand that the sources of criminal capital are quite different here. But, nevertheless, the definite natural laws which have manifested themselves in the corruption we have here at home have also occurred abroad.

[Tsukanova] Was there anything new to you in the facts that Vice President Rutskoy cited in his well-known speech in parliament? Were any cases already in train?

[Stepankov] Some were, some were not. With regard to the facts which the vice president cited, we are investigating more than one criminal case. Officials, inter alia, are involved. I would not say, as journalists frequently write, that the vice president "accumulated" facts. First, nothing in particular was accumulated. He simply systematized several—let us say—government decrees and decisions which, when combined in a single document, give rise to very many questions. About red mercury, for example.

[Tsukanova] Does the Prosecutor's Office have grounds to institute criminal proceedings against anyone?

[Stepankov] There will be grounds when we level charges against someone. To date no charge has been leveled against anyone in the case of the red mercury. In other cases—yes. With regard to the Western Group of Forces and in other cases connected with "Harvest-90," but not yet with regard to the red mercury.

[Tsukanova] The press is writing a great deal about militarized formations, including those attached to political organizations. Have any criminal proceedings been instituted in these cases?

[Stepankov] A very alarming situation is taking shape in our country with regard to the Cossacks. There have been criminal cases in instances where groups of Cossacks, for example, attacked a rayon militia department in Krasnodar Kray, committed a grave crime there, and seized weapons. There have been instances when people, including Cossacks, have made contact with servicemen and bought weapons from them or acquired them from them in other ways. We also have operational data on the existence of armed formations of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples. These gunmen are developing their combat readiness in the conflict in Abkhazia. As regards other militarized formations, here in Moscow Oblast we—working people of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Security, and the Prosecutor's Office—have exposed an organization which has been instructing and training "fighters." It is the so-called Professional Boxing League, although they had nothing to do with boxing.

I believe that the measures which should be taken—this is primarily the duty of the Ministry of Security—must be tougher and more consistent. Unfortunately, we sometimes have to goad the security services into tackling this.

[Tsukanova] The Supreme Soviet is now working on a law on weapons. How do you rate it?

[Stepankov] I believe that in the present situation we probably should not single out precisely this law. It might regularize the problem to some extent, but it will not halt the spread of violence and savagery in society. More concern

must be shown for other guarantees and other forms of curbing the further spread of violence in the state.

Yeltsin Forms Commission To Investigate May Day Events

LD1105075893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0749 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—"President Boris Yeltsin's order to set up a state commission to investigate the circumstances and reasons of the Mayday events in Moscow has been forwarded to the mass media for publication," the press service of the Russian president reported here today. The commission was set up to thoroughly investigate the riots which broke out during a Mayday demonstration in the Russian capital. Its purpose is also to draw up measures to prevent possible negative actions by extremist political forces, to strengthen legality and public order.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was appointed chairman of the state commission. It includes the ministers of security and the interior, chairmen of parliamentary committees, the mayor of Moscow, several other personalities. The commission was recommended to present its conclusion within the next ten days. The order to set up this state commission was signed by the president on May 8, 1993.

Security Ministry Accused of Inaction on May Day

PM1005123993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 93 First Edition p 2

[Valeriy Vyzhutovich article: "Security Ministry Obliged To Guarantee Security of State and Its Citizens"]

[Text] Representatives of practically all the organs of power have stated their views about the bloody battle in Moscow's Gagarin Square 1 May in which 579 people were injured and one Special-Purpose Militia Detachment staffer, Vladimir Tolokneyev, died, and have assessed to what degree they were responsible for what happened. The Russian Security Ministry has been the only department to demonstratively distance itself from the public investigation into the circumstances of the tragedy.

Sergey Bogdanov, a staffer at the Russian Security Ministry press center, stated to journalists that the Russian Security Ministry "has no comment to make on what happened." "We had no information on the preparation of the disturbances," Bogdanov said. "If we had had agents working inside the political parties and movements, we would have been able to avert them."

This statement's impassive brevity belies an important subtext. First, we are being told that the honor of the Lubyanka uniform is no longer being tarnished by involvement in political investigations: It is no good looking for what is not there, they say, so stop pinning old labels on the security "organs." Second, it is as it were being hinted to us: You have been trying to achieve the noninterference of the special services in the activities of political parties and organizations, so you will get it!

All this would seem to be logical if we pretend that on this day civilized politicians and the law-abiding "working public of the capital" were holding their customary celebrations in the Bolshoy Theater to mark the unification of the world's proletariat. But can you call thugs armed with iron bars politicians? Can you call street provocateurs who force a brutalized crowd against police batons and water cannons a party? And when you have a bloody fistfight, windows being smashed, vehicles being torched, and paving stones being hurled at the custodians of order—can you call this political activity?

The Moscow Prosecutor's Office classified the events as mass disturbances and instituted proceedings in respect of a crime having been committed. But what has politics—in which the security organs have seemingly vowed never to interfere again—to do with it? Incidentally, it is rather difficult to believe that after the USSR KGB's reorganization and the increase of their own department's personnel by several tens of thousands of people, the Russian security organs are not earning their bread carrying out political investigations. In any case, judging by the events of 1 May, our special services are less well prepared than anyone for the struggle against the illegal organizations which are trying to achieve the violent overthrow of the legal authorities.

A Russian Security Ministry official who wished to remain anonymous explained in an interview to IZVESTIYA the incomprehensible inactivity of the Russian special services with regard to professional provocateurs and their accomplices: "We only have the right to interfere in the activities of a particular political party if we receive an official representation from the Justice Ministry. It is there that these parties are registered and there that they are deemed to be legal or declared to be outside the law. Both the Constitutional Court and parliament can also petition for extremist political organizations' actions to be stopped. In short, you need a legally drawn up social order. Without this neither infiltration of agents into the ranks of the political opposition nor bugging of telephone conversations are permissible."

The headquarters of "Working Russia" promises "to act differently" 9 May: "to arm themselves with clubs and the like." The National Salvation Front is threatening to bring out onto the streets that day more than 150,000 "more thoroughly prepared" volunteers. The troublemakers and pogrom organizers are broadcasting these intentions of theirs publicly—in newspapers and on the radio. The Security Ministry does not have to bug Anpilov's telephones to uncover this "secret." Also not needed here is the extensive agent network, whose use against the political extremists is evidently prevented by the "organs'" natural punctiliousness.

No, the provocateurs who have declared war on the state, the lawful authorities, and society are not a "political

and spiritual opposition." They are criminals who have already tasted blood and are ready to spill some more. They are terrorists both in spirit and in deed. That very group which the Security Ministry should be dealing with in the course of its work and not in accordance with some "order." The security of the state, society, and citizens is today undergoing unprecedented and unchecked tribulations.

CPSU-UCP Council Appeals for Support, Solidarity

PM1005115793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 May 93 p 1

[Appeal by the CPSU-UCP (Union of Communist Parties) Political Executive Committee Council: "In the Hope of Solidarity"]

[Text] Comrades!

International pacts on human rights, and the UN General Assembly Resolution of 17 December 1979 which confirmed the code of conduct for officials when maintaining law and order, were grossly violated 1 May 1993.

The tragedy was provoked by forces striving to erase the social gains of the people and the democratic institutions, and to prepare for the establishment of a regime of personal power.

We appeal to all left-wing and progressive forces in the hope of harnessing support for and solidarity with the Russian peoples' struggle for their social rights, and against an authoritarian regime.

[Signed] CPSU-UCP [Union of Communist Parties] Political Executive Committee Council.

Fedotov Denies Report of Press Ministry's Abolition

MK1105112693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 May 93 p 9

[Mikhail Shapiro report: "Russian Press Ministry To Be Abolished. Information Center May Become a Ministry]

[Text] **By all appearances, the battle the Russian authorities are waging for control of the mass media is entering a decisive phase. Yesterday, the radio stations Ekho Moskvy and Radio Liberty, with reference to informed sources in the Russian Government, broadcast information on the possible dissolution of the Russian Ministry of the Press and Information. According to the same sources, a considerable part of the ministry's functions will go to the Federal Information Center, headed by Mikhail Poltoranin. Sergey Yushenkov, first deputy head of the Federal Information Center, did not confirm for your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent the news about the Press Ministry's being disbanded, but he did say that the period for which the ministry had been created was over. In an interview for a Radio Liberty correspondent last night, Russian Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov also refuted information about the abolition of his ministry.**

The Federal Information Center performs monitoring and administrative functions, including appointments to key posts in the state-owned media, in particular radio and television. According to unofficial information, the center controls considerable finances and distributes premises for new publications.

The latest session of the government's presidium confirmed a statute of the Ministry for the Press and Information which contradicts rumors of the agency's disbandment. A high-ranking Press Ministry official, however, hinted to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the ministry will be reformed after all. Observers believe that the ministry will be disbanded if only because the federal authorities cannot afford to keep up two agencies with similar functions. Notably, the Press Ministry, which adheres to a degree of political neutrality, has less chance to survive than the Center, which is pro-president. Therefore, the preference will be unequivocally given to the latter.

The issue of the Federal Information Center would have arisen one way or another as the executive branch has need of a special service to carry out campaigns in support of government activities. The center already played this role, in particular when it launched a vigorous campaign to support the president before the referendum and thereby ensured his victory. Should the Press Ministry be disbanded, the Federal Information Center would take over the former's functions. Thus, the federal authorities would solve two problems at once: they would lend legitimacy to the Center by turning it virtually into a new ministry, and simultaneously guard the Center against attacks by Supreme Soviet leaders.

A law on television and radio broadcasting, which will probably incorporate a point on a watchdog council, will be discussed at a parliament session in the next few days. It appears that the leaders of parliament intend to keep tabs on the operation of all presidential propaganda institutions with the aid of watchdog councils.

Housing Main Problem for Refugees in Russia

PM1005094393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 May 93 p 2

[Article by Tatyana Regent, director of the Russian Federal Migration Service: "It Is Hard To Start Over From Scratch... Tatyana Regent, Director of the Russian Federal Migration Service, Ponders the Problems of Refugees"]

[Text] The migration processes which began as a result of the disintegration of the Union are certainly not easing but instead are constantly intensifying, and, furthermore, the causes are not confined to interethnic conflicts. In the past year it has become particularly noticeable how Russian speakers are being "gently eased out" of the former Union republics. In addition refugees have

begun to appear from war-torn regions of Russia itself—I have the North Caucasus in mind here. That is why the normative acts which have been or soon are about to be adopted are assuming fundamental importance.

The Supreme Soviet planned to abolish residence permits. As a step toward protecting human rights this is undoubtedly justified. But now, when Russia's borders have essentially ceased to exist and there is no control over the migration of citizens of Russia and both nearby foreign parts and those further afield, this abolition of the residence permit will surely provoke a new wave of illegal migration which, in turn, will cause an upsurge in the crime rate, especially in the big cities.

It is sometimes forgotten that in addition to refugees from the nearby foreign parts there is an ever-increasing number of people arriving in Moscow from countries much further away. The conflict with the Somalis who virtually occupied Sheremetyevo International Airport recently, the many problems with the Iraqi Kurds who entered Russia via Azerbaijan, the Afghans who graduated from Moscow higher educational institutions and refused to return home, and those other Afghans who moved to the Russian capital across the open border in Tajikistan... All these events aggravate our own difficulties.

At the end of last year Russia joined the international convention on refugees. This was another progressive step and the laws that we adopted whereby Russia, as legal successor to the former Union, assumed a number of commitments toward people returning from the nearby foreign parts—commitments relating to compensation, housing, land, and work—were meant to apply to Russians in particular. However, now the convention requires that the law on refugees be applied to all people arriving from the conflict zones. It is no coincidence that staffers of the regional migration services are bombarding us with questions such as: Should the Tajiks who have fled from Tajikistan be registered as refugees? Should Georgians who have left Georgia to avoid fighting on the Abkhaz front be classed as refugees?

When these laws were being adopted their economic base had, of course, not been worked out. Hence we adjusted the republic migration program in the light of the number of new arrivals. This year we have been allocated 24 billion from the budget but we need at least 165 billion. The shortage of money plus the opportunities now afforded by the law will increase still further the number of illegal migrants, clearly because of inadequate control.

The complexity of the situation can be seen from the example of Tajikistan, to name but one. Russia has signed—but not yet ratified—an agreement with Tajikistan on the resettlement of people. In my opinion the Russians there are being squeezed out, they are being forced to flee and abandon their homes. In addition, Tajikistan seems to have no commitments toward Russia. Incidentally, we are already successfully holding talks on this problem with Lithuania and will clearly soon sign an appropriate document.

The questions of compensation and the duty- or customs-free export of property can still be resolved with the sovereign republics, but how are people to be compensated for past losses? I think that it will be hard to resolve this question without an active foreign policy which uses economic and political levers to protect the interests, both material and human, of fellow countrymen. Furthermore, it is precisely economic levers which are often the most effective.

We have used the interim accounting procedure to register those people who have turned to us, and it turns out that there are approximately 200,000 refugees in Russia now. At the moment they have no permanent residence permit, housing, or work. This figure results mainly from three waves of migration—from the Dniester, Abkhazia, and Tajikistan. Incidentally, the number of temporary migrants will clearly reach 2 million by the end of the year. Around 10,0000 refugees have been registered in Moscow and 6,000 in St. Petersburg. It is well known that Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Moscow and Kaliningrad Oblasts have introduced a fairly rigorous procedure for the admission of refugees and we, in turn, are trying not to send newcomers to Krasnodar and Stavropol Krays or to Rostov Oblast—many are going there of their own accord. By contrast we are sending people on a centralized basis to regions of Central Russia, the South Urals, and the Volga region and are building temporary reception centers there.

It is usually thought that one way or another refugees aggravate unemployment locally, but the facts tell a different story. The main problem for such people in other states is indeed that of finding work, and this is the decisive factor in their future lives. In our country, though, the problem is housing.

Of course it is not easy for a person to become accustomed to rural life after living in a big city, but it is far more distressing to have no roof over your head at all. And when skilled specialists return to Russia from Tajikistan, people who in their previous home enjoyed a very comfortable life, a dangerous psychological problem occurs because, of course, here in their new locations they cannot find the kind of conditions that they are used to. Admittedly these people, especially the middle-aged ones, are keen to swell the ranks of businessmen and private farmers, but without housing life is very very difficult for them.

Incidentally, with our help the major oblast centers are carrying out the so-called selective acceptance of specialists that they need. In Ulyanovsk, for instance, they have created a branch of the Moscow State University where refugees—mostly Russians—from the nearby foreign parts—mainly Central Asia—will teach, and housing is being built for them with our assistance.

It is the construction of homes and temporary reception centers that is one of our main items of expenditure.

Given the 9-million waiting list for housing that exists in Russia, the volumes of new housing will have to be split in two—one half to locals, the other to refugees. There is no other way: Mutual recriminations could upset social peace in the regions.

Trial of Coup Leaders To Resume 12 May

LD1005122793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The trial of the State Committee for the State of Emergency case—which was interrupted on 16 April in connection with the illness of the accused, Aleksandr Tizyakov—will resume on 12 May. The court session is due to open at 1000 hrs.

Economic Issues

Vice Premier on Anti-Inflationary Policy

PM1005122593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Vice Premier Boris Fedorov, Russian finance minister: "Russia's Financial Policy Following the Referendum"]

[Text] Russia now has a chance to fight inflation and end the year in relative stability. The annual inflation rate has fallen from 2,500 percent in early January to 1,100 percent a year, and every effort must be made to maintain this trend. There has been no slump in production, enterprises are really adapting to market conditions, and privatization is gathering pace.

But any failure to take resolute and comprehensive measures in the next few weeks would threaten the green shoots of stability. Yet in the referendum the people came out unambiguously in support of the course of the reforms begun in 1992, and this obliges us to take steps forward, including possibly involving the authors of last year's reforms in the work. We do not have the right to dash the voters' hopes or to lose our momentum. For the first two weeks we have to all intents and purposes lost our momentum.

Economic success is the guarantee of political stability. The situation regarding the monstrous growth in prices is the only result in our country which has been noticed by all and sundry. It is price growth when goods are available rather than the percentage of decline in production that determines the actual well-being of specific citizens. Not a single government anywhere in the world has been able to stay in power for very long after being defeated in the fight against inflation. On the contrary, tough policies such as those followed by M. Thatcher, who conquered inflation, can be election winners on many occasions, despite problems with production and unemployment.

Our economic reform is based above all on common sense, on practical experience, and on tried-and-tested forms and methods, rather than on some theory—including the bankrupt "planned" economy theory that has done immeasurable damage. The market was not thought up by office-bound Marxists, but by life. Great Russia needs to rectify as quickly as possible the mistakes accumulated over the past 70 years and to return to a normal economy.

The most important short-term financial policy tasks are as follows.

In order to avoid a budget disaster we need to impose a ban before the year's end on the adoption by all branches of power of new decisions that materially affect the budget. We need to depoliticize the economy and firmly state that "finance cannot be hostage to politics." This will require that we postpone implementation of a number of recently adopted decisions for approximately two to four months with a view to accumulating the necessary resources.

We need to strictly maintain the ceilings for growth in centralized credit (30 percent in the second quarter, 20 and 15 percent in subsequent quarters) and budget deficits. In order to really combat inflation we will probably have to cut our stated budget spending by approximately 40 percent. We must devote particular attention to the sharp reduction in import subsidies, which discriminate against our own producers, and to various kinds of concessions and exclusions, where we lose trillions without any real benefit.

That is the only way to curb inflation and improve the health of state finances. It is no secret that increased inflation results in a continuously growing budget deficit, which thereby stokes inflation. At the same time, inflation is a kind of tax on enterprises (hence their lack of working capital), on the population (resulting in a fall in their living standards), and on the entire country (resulting in a flight of capital abroad, because rubles are losing their value).

A tough monetary and credit policy, the rational utilization of credits, and the requirement that they be repaid and used effectively are of immense importance in all this. The Central Bank of Russia must, finally, come to the defense of the ruble and protect our national interests, and this includes ending uncontrolled subsidies to the former USSR republics (many billions of dollars), fighting to preserve the unity of the monetary and credit system within Russia, organizing settlements, and turning interest rates into an economic regulator.

Unfortunately, we are a long way from solving our problems with normal market methods. It is being proposed that we solve the nonpayments problem—which is linked to inflation, the unsophisticated settlement system, and the continued parasitism of many enterprises—by stimulating inflation and pumping new and inflationary amounts of money into the economy. One wonders whether we will have to redo these calculations

[zachety] every six months. There is a limit to everything, and we should not be cutting off our nose to spite our face.

Strangely enough, the fight against inflation presupposes further price liberalization. For instance, the subsidies provided to the coal industry run to at least 2 trillion rubles. Everyone recognizes the need to close down dozens of inefficient mines, but nobody is doing so. Is there a country anywhere in the world where coal subsidies account for 20 percent of budgetary income? Profitable mines should prosper, while bad ones should be closed down. The other option—of subsidizing everyone—reduces the incentive to make a profit, destroys the budget, and increases inflation.

Moreover, our strange tactic of "restraining" certain regulated prices for many months and then allowing them to surge upward many times over is a further and even more dangerous source of inflation. First we make a mockery of a sector, which loses profitability, then we launch a series of sharp price rises into the economy, creating chaos and preventing enterprises getting into a normal working rhythm. This pricing policy, along with popular decisions on pensions and wages, is what is throwing the country into turmoil, not "bad" enterprises. That is why a system of monthly regulated prices (for gas and transport costs, for instance) lagging the inflation index (for instance, 0.75 percent of every unit of price index growth) should be introduced for regulated prices.

Finally, the priority tasks should include a range of measures to expand the foreign currency market with a view to stabilizing the exchange rate. How much longer can we go on just talking about the need for access for nonresidents [to foreign currency operations] as well as for restrictions on the circulation of foreign currency [skolko mozhno govorit o neobkhodimosti dopuska nerezidentov i ogranichenii obrashcheniya inostrannoy valyuty]; where is the interbank foreign exchange market, where are the incentives for foreign investment? Only by increasing the influx of foreign currency into the market—including by beefing up monetary and credit policy and foreign exchange controls and by removing various kinds of customs and tax barriers—will we be able to bring the ruble exchange rate to a more realistic level.

But fixing the rate artificially, as is being proposed, would be suicidal and mean the end of reform. The rate of the Russian ruble, even though there is little economic justification for it, reflects our economic mechanism, our regulation, and our political situation. We should not bury our heads in the sand instead of solving our problems. I think that all mandatory sales of foreign currency—and these should be gradually abandoned—should be done through the foreign exchange market. We cannot tolerate the practice whereby you sell currency to the Central Bank today at one rate, and get the rubles when the rate has already altered by 30 or 40 percent.

Financial stabilization and a hard ruble are possible, the prerequisites for this exist. People would sense this after a few months, the ruble rate would begin to stabilize, and interest rates would start coming down. We merely need to show the political will.

Consumer Price Inflation Slows in April

PM1005133193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 93 First Edition p 4

[Report by Irina Goryacheva of the Russian Government's Center for Economic Conditions: "Inflation in April Less Than in February and March"]

[Text] In April prices of basic foodstuffs increased 14 percent, including 2.3 percent over the last week. The rate of growth in April was the lowest in the last eight months. According to up-to-the-minute figures, the overall inflation index for the month was 116.

Nevertheless in April prices continued to increase for all groups of monitored foodstuffs: In particular, over the month prices of eggs rose 32 percent, fruit—22 percent, meat products and sugar—almost 20 percent, and fish and dairy produce—17 and 15 percent. Prices of groats and pasta products, animal and vegetable fat, and tobacco products were more stable, rising 7-8 percent. For the period January-April as a whole prices of foodstuffs rose by a factor of 2.1.

There are still drastic differences in the rate of price change both for individual economic areas and within these areas.

The largest price hike in April—24 percent—was recorded in the Volga Region, and the rate in the Far East, East Siberian, Central Chernozem, and West Siberian regions was 16-19 percent. In Moscow the weekly price increase did not top 2-4 percent.

The average cost of a range of 19 highly important foodstuffs at the end of April in Russia was 8,527 rubles [R], up 14 percent on the end of the previous month.

Of the 132 cities in the survey the cost of the range of 19 highly important foodstuffs increased most in April as against March for the inhabitants of Tatarstan. Thus, in Kazan prices rose by 61 percent and in Naberezhnyye Chelny by 55 percent. In Moscow and St. Petersburg the cost of this range of goods increased 12 and 9 percent respectively over the month. In the list of Russia's most expensive cities Moscow has moved from sixth to 13th place since the end of March, while St. Petersburg has moved from 10th to 14th position.

The most "expensive" cities in April were Vladivostok, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Magadan, Murmansk, and Apatity. The "cheapest" were Ulyanovsk and cities in the Republic of Bashkortostan (Neftekamsk, Sterlitamak, Ishimbay, and Ufa), as well as Orel and Taganrog.

Prices and tariffs for paid services to the population rose 28 percent in April. Compared with December 1992 price and tariffs for paid services rose by a factor of 2.9, which is higher by a factor of 1.3 than the increase in the consumer prices of basic foodstuffs.

There were particularly dramatic hikes in the prices of services provided by sanatoriums—52 percent, rest homes—53 percent, and medical establishments (30-44 percent).

Disability Benefits Extended to Former WWII Veterans

PM1005140593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 93 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "President's Decree on Procedure for Determining Disability of Former Partisans"]

[Text] On 6 May a decree by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin on the procedure for determining the disability of former partisans was presented for publication.

According to it, the president's press service reports, the procedure for determining disability, envisaged by the Russian Federation president's 25 May 1992 edict "On the Procedure for Determining the Disability of Former Servicemen Who Performed Their Military Duty in the Great Patriotic War Behind Enemy Lines" will extend to persons who participated in combat actions behind enemy lines as members of partisan units and formations during the Great Patriotic War.

'Chaos and Confusion' in Coal Industry Viewed

PM1105120193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 93 p 2

[Yelena Losoto "Topical Reportage": "Tomorrow There Will Be a 'Great Leap Forward'"]

[Excerpt] Vorkuta-Moscow—[passage omitted] State subsidies to coal miners have been cut to one-half of what had been requested. The sector requested 860 billion rubles [R] for 1993 but was given just over R400 billion.

All this was calculated last year and at last year's prices. Compensation for the strides of inflation was categorically refused. Agreement to compensate wages was reached under pressure from the miners, but that was all. Yet the coal sector throughout the world is subsidized. In our country the situation looks like this: One cubic meter of timber costs R20,000, while one tonne of coal costs R1,000. It takes just over six cubic meters of timber to produce this one tonne of coal.

Since the central authority in our country is omnipotent, it can with a single stroke of the pen wipe off the face of the earth anything it likes, including coal mines, and cover this space with anything else—corn plantations, for example. Even beyond the Arctic Circle—why not?

At the "Yuzhnaya" Mine I talked with Director E.R. Bekhtold:

"The coal industry is being destroyed. If tomorrow the mine is left without budget receipts or subsidies, the mine will come to a halt in two or three months' time. If things are given free rein [yesli pustit na volnyye khleba], in other words if coal prices are set free, hyperinflation will sweep the entire economy away. This is not done anywhere in the world, but our state has taken just this path."

"Is this being done deliberately?"

"Perfectly. This is the government's deliberate policy aimed at reducing coal extraction and groundlessly switching the consumer to oil and gas. This has hardly been reckoned up. A switch to a different fuel is a matter of decades, but the volume of coal extraction can be cut down in a year."

"Is this another 'great leap forward'?"

"Yes, it is a 'great leap forward.' It is unrealistic to switch everything to oil and gas in a short space of time. It is a tremendous error by our officials."

Deputy Director A.A. Yanochkin was present during our conversation. He himself is from Krasnodon, and he recalled that such a thing was done under Khrushchev. They sowed corn and closed down coal mines. Five mines were closed down in Krasnodon. Then they reopened them and made two more new ones.

"It is a policy like that of reversing the flow of northern rivers."

A collective forecast:

"If the tax and credit policy does not change, a breakdown awaits the coal sector. Weak enterprises will perish in a year, and strong ones in two or three years."

It is planned to close down several dozen mines in the country as a whole. I was told 103. This is called "liquidating" them.

Here is the position of the Independent Miners' Trade Union.

N.N. Stroyenko:

"We will not give our consent to the closure of a mine until the government produces a program of social arrangement: Providing workers with jobs and apartments in another area."

N.N. Nosov:

"When they started closing down the Khalmer Yu Mine, the trade union demanded a closure program, funds, and an estimate of where and how to settle people. They wanted to end the matter in two or three months? No, it will take two or three years."

A. Khidirov, cochairman of the workers committee:

"This is our position: If a mine is closed down, there must be a program stipulating all the social guarantees for every person released. Five mines are due for closure. Our task is to ensure that people do not end up on the street."

In short, workers' representatives influence not the essence of the policy on the coal sector but its forms.

Mutual nonpayments have again accumulated on a huge scale, just like last summer. The "Vorkutaugol" Association is owed R11.5 billion. By whom? By everyone. The Cherepovets metallurgical plant owes R5.6 billion, while Moscow's coke-oven plant and the Novolipetskiy Metallurgical Plant owe somewhat less; in all, there are 27 consumers of the coal from here, and they all owe.

The association is also in debt, owing R4 billion, including R3.6 billion to the railroad. A strike is already planned there.

Again everyone owes everyone. That same Cherepovets plant is owed R56 billion by its own customers. They take metal when they do not have the money to pay. There is chaos and confusion or, as an acquaintance of mine here said, "a terrible madhouse."

A.K. Gorenok, technical director of management, explained things to me like this:

"For the past three years we have been finishing off old fixed capital. Even without repairs. It is necessary to close down mines which require huge subsidies, but for this a state program is needed. Then funds will be released for more profitable mines."

He hopes to arrange for manageability through a share flotation. The State Committee for the Management of State Property is left with 60 percent of the capital, and the enterprise with 40 percent.

"It must be understood that the boss is the state, not the miner. The miner can have a share. But the worker shouts that he is the boss, chooses the director, and gets onto the management. Discipline was maintained by the engineering and technical personnel, not by the party. The engineering and technical personnel maintained everything. Now the miner is paid for his presence, not for his work. Four hours later the section walks out and says to the engineering and technical worker: We will elect someone else in your place. It is necessary to throw down two shovels, but the worker throws down one, and so there are accidents. Chaos. Huge wages are shelled out. Each month begins with now one, now another section not going to work."

I have cited the leader's words in quite great detail. I have been told the same thing in one form or another by many people who are able to look at the workers from one side. Of course, there is quite profound understanding of the situation from within, and yet some things can also be seen from the side.

Something similar happened after October 1917. The workers said: We are the bosses now, and we will work if we want to and won't work if we don't want to. This has been described in detail in literature. We did have and still have no capitalist training or discipline. There was servile fear of the "white helmet" [engineering and technical worker]; people have rid themselves of that fear—thank God—but nothing else has replaced it.

Military Issues

Grachev Speaks on Army Anniversary

PM1105093293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 May 93

[By Aleksandr Ostrovskiy; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Ostrovskiy] The Russian Army is one year old but to speak of its birth 12 months ago would be not entirely correct. The Russian Army, while remaining international in spirit and personnel and without rejecting all that was good from the former USSR Army, is trying to renew itself, to regain the people's respect in the man in uniform.

[Defense Minister Pavel Grachev] We have succeeded in creating the foundations of the future highly mobile, modern Russian Armed Forces. And that despite all the complexity of the domestic political and economic situation over the course of the year.

[Ostrovskiy] Together with the new geostrategic structure, they have succeeded in restoring the management of the Armed Forces and consequently also combat readiness. Two military districts have also been restored—the Volga and Urals districts. And the North Caucasus district will become a main one in 1995. Now in the Army there are over 50,000 servicemen who are serving under contract but perhaps most importantly there has been a reduction in the resignations of young officers, to whom the future of the new army has been entrusted. Many problems remain: With the withdrawal of troops from abroad, with the provision of amenities for them, with the understaffing of units. The Army continues to be used in interethnic conflicts. A state housing program is also as essential as air for the military.

Mironov Conveys Grachev's Greetings to WWII Veterans

PM1005134393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 93 p 1

[Feliks Semyanovskiy report: "Festive Soiree for Veterans at Central Academic Theater of Russian Army"]

[Text] Frontline servicemen were invited to a festive soiree by the War Veterans' Committee, and Marshal of Aviation Nikolay Skomorokhov, chairman of the committee and twice Hero of the Soviet Union, addressed the audience on the committee's behalf.

On the instructions of Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, Colonel General Valeriy Mironov, deputy defense minister, congratulated the former frontline servicemen. Mironov voiced a high opinion of the boost that is given to the morale of today's servicemen by educating Russian Army personnel in the spirit of the heroic exploits of frontline servicemen.

Defense Minister's Victory Day Order Published

PM1005145193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 May 93 p 1

["Order of Russian Federation Defense Minister No. 235," dated 8 May 1993, Moscow]

[Text] Comrade soldiers, seamen, sergeants, petty officers, ensigns, warrant officers, and officers!

Comrade veterans of the Great Patriotic War and of labor and the Armed Forces!

On 8 May 1993 we mark the 48th anniversary of Victory in the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War. During the bitterest of fighting which lasted 1,418 days and nights, soldiers of the Red Army defended our multinational motherland's independence, cleared the invaders from its native soil, inflicted a crushing defeat on fascism, and liberated the peoples of Europe from its yoke.

On the fields of battle our Armed Forces augmented the glory of their combat banners. Army and Navy servicemen showed unparalleled heroism on a massive scale, high martial skill, and dedication to the military oath, military duty, and their people. Side by side with them the people's militia, underground fighters, and partisans routed the enemy.

Today the heroic combat traditions of Great Patriotic War front-liners are being continued by the personnel of the Russian Federation Armed Forces. In complex socio-economic conditions, our servicemen are showing composure, calm, and organization and are worthily fulfilling their duty in the protection of Russia's state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

I greet and congratulate you on the Day of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.

I wish personnel of the Russian Armed Forces success in increasing their combat readiness and strengthening military discipline and organization. I wish war, labor, and Armed Forces veterans good health and prosperity, energy and purposefulness in educating the rising generations in the traditions of loyal service to the people and the fatherland.

In commemoration of the 48th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War **I ORDER:**

That on 9 May 1993 at 2200 hours local time a ceremonial 30-gun artillery salute be fired in the capital of our motherland, the hero-city of Moscow, in the hero-cities of St. Petersburg, Volgograd, Novorossiysk, Tula, Smolensk, and Murmansk, and also in the cities of Kaliningrad, Rostov-na-Donu, Samara, Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk, Chita, Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, and Severomorsk.

Eternal glory to the heroes who died in the fight for our fatherland's freedom and independence!

[Signed] Army General P. Grachev, minister of defense of the Russian Federation

[Dated] 8 May 1993, Moscow

Navy Aide Explains Black Sea Fleet Financing

PM1005115393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 May 93 p 7

[Aleksand Veledeyev and Vladimir Shigin report: "Who Maintains the Black Sea Fleet? A Number of Substantial Clarifications by a Financial Official"]

[Text] Recently the Ukrainian military department dramatically embarked on a course of denouncing previous agreements on the Black Sea Fleet. The question of fleet financing figures among the basic reasons for the need to break the accords. The Ukrainian side considers that it bears this burden on its shoulders. What is the real picture? Valeriy Shokhirev, chief of the Russian Navy Finance and Economics Directorate, talks about this.

A tried-and-tested system of financial and material and technical backup for the Black Sea Fleet was developed over the years of the fleet's existence. After the events which are known to everyone, the Ukrainian side made a series of attempts in effect to take the Black Sea Fleet under its control. I am not going to talk about the unilateral "privatization" of a number of enterprises, establishments, military units, and ships—that is already known to your broad readership. As of January 1992 the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, without agreement with us, started financing the fleet, blocking, in conjunction with the Sevastopol branch of the Ukrainian Central Bank, the appropriations transferred to the Russian Navy. Such actions were naturally unacceptable to the Russian side. Proposals were made to the Russian Government that, for a transitional period, funds for the upkeep of the Black Sea Fleet be allocated equally out of both states' budgets. Such an approach was detrimental to neither side, but this year the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has tried to finance the fleet via the Ukrainian Navy financial service. On questions of finance and economic activity the fleet commander has been subordinated to the commander of the Ukrainian Navy, which is effectively in breach of the Yalta agreements between our two countries' presidents. But that is not all. Since 1 November 1992 servicemen's job- and rank-related pay has been more than doubled by the Ukrainian side—but only for those who have taken the Ukrainian oath.

Now a few words about who actually maintains the fleet. I have recourse to figures here. And they are as follows:

Ukraine's expenditure in 1992 came to more than 9 billion karbovanets, but Russia's contribution was very impressive, too. The supply of diverse military equipment alone, funded by the Russian Federation Defense Ministry, came to 3 billion rubles [R] (rather than karbovanets) during this period. Moreover, around R2 billion was paid in direct financing of everyday fleet activity, while a considerable sum of foreign currency was paid for the upkeep of the personnel of warships and other vessels on long foreign voyages. The results of the first quarter of 1993 are as follows: Ukraine has allocated 10 billion karbovanets, Russia R4 billion. It is not difficult to work out each state's contribution on the basis of the exchange rate difference.

Pacific Fleet Commander on Problems Faced

LD1005051393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0340 GMT 10 May 93

[Interview with Vice Admiral Oleg Faleyev, Russian Pacific Fleet chief of staff, by Ivan Rudich; place and date not given—from the Russian Defense Ministry "Slavyanka" studio program; recorded]

[Text] [Faleyev] We have been able to ensure that the fleet has accomplished all the goals set it and to ensure constant readiness. The fleet's military training targets for last year were met 100 percent and several dozen maneuvers were held. Taking into account the fleet's logistics system, we will be trying to use a broader range of methods and approaches to economize on resources.

[Rudich] Which issues have to be tackled first of all so that the Pacific Fleet maintains readiness?

[Faleyev] The fleet's biggest problem at present concerns manpower, how to maintain both numbers and quality. Unfortunately, not a single new ship was built last year. Ships do become obsolete, and if they are not maintained there is a danger that the fleet will deteriorate. Recruitment and a legislative framework for organizing military service will of course help us resolve this problem. We are moving over to a contractual recruitment system, and I think that this will allow us to employ more mature people on a voluntary basis.

[Rudich] The prestige of service in the military has fallen. Could this be responsible for many of your difficulties?

[Faleyev] At the moment the fleet is largely dependent on the love of most of its men, especially officers and warrant officers, for their jobs. Despite everything, they are devoting all their knowledge and skills to conscientious service in the fleet. But we have increasing problems with social provisions for servicemen, unfortunately, and especially in connection with alterations to the way that the Army and Navy are provided for. We would like this to be sorted out as soon as possible at the government and Defense Ministry level in order to improve the financial well-being of servicemen in our fleet and also the long-term prospects for military service.

Air Force Commander Complains About Troop Treatment

LD1105051793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0330 GMT 11 May 93

[From the Russian Defense Ministry's "Slavyanka" studio program]

[Text] As our next interview shows, the Air Force has its own headaches. For example, the withdrawal of units from the ex-USSR and further abroad. Here's Colonel General Petr Deynekin, commander in chief of the Russian Air Force:

[Begin Deynekin recording] Our first concern, of course, is for our people. It causes me much pain and bitterness to say this, but I cannot hide my anxiety about the way that our Russian troops are not always greeted with open arms. Here is a specific example. Over the past few years we have been trying to redeploy a heavy transport regiment with our huge Ruslans [An-124s] to a unique airfield just outside Ulyanovsk. But we are not getting any support from the oblast administration. Not only that, but they are putting up the most inane excuses to try to stop us.

Only after a lot of hard work and intervention by the defense minister did the Ulyanovsk administration agree to have a paratroop division being pulled out of Azerbaijan, from Gyandzha, stationed in its area, and we are trying to get it redeployed as quickly as possible.

We are using transport aircraft to carry our men and their families, and taking heavy equipment by land convoy. And the manager of the Ulyanovsk Aviation Industrial Association, Mikhaylov, will not even agree to attend a welcome reception for our officers, warrant officers, and their families. Is this the way we do things in Russia?

I would like to take this rare opportunity to go on-air to express my sincere thanks to the leaders of other oblasts in Russia who have taken an understanding view of our difficulties and are helping us to billet our officers and men—they do not have official refugee status but that, in effect, is what they are. I refer to the leaders of Rostov Oblast and city, of Krasnodar Kray, Stavropol Kray, Voronezh Oblast, Tver, Kaluga, and many, many other cities, including Leningrad [as heard] and Moscow and the Moscow region. So, I think that our dispute with Ulyanovsk will be sorted out. [end recording]

Military Attaches Briefed on Armed Forces Development

LD1105143393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Military, naval and air attaches accredited in Moscow were informed of the development of the Russian armed forces and the structure of the Russian Defence Ministry at a briefing held at the Central House of the Russian Army today. The briefing was conducted by Major-General Vyacheslav Stolbunov, chief of the Foreign Relations Department of the Russian Defence Ministry and Valeriy Chirvin, chief of the press service of the Russian Defence Ministry.

The development of the Russian armed forces is to be implemented in three stages, Major-General Vasiliy Lata, first deputy chief of the Department for Military Development and Reform at the Russian Defence Ministry, told the briefing. He said that the stock-taking of the armed forces and military equipment was made during the first stage. New units are being formed. The planned reduction of the numerical strength and combat forces was carried out.

Thus, the numerical strength of the Russian armed forces was cut by over 220 thousand. Planned withdrawal of armed forces continues. 180 thousand servicemen were pulled out from abroad to Russia in 1992. About 2.5 thousand tanks, over 1.5 thousand artillery systems and large amounts of military equipment was taken out, as well as one million tonnes of material and technical supplies.

General Lata said that the forming of the new military-technical policy of the Russian Federation is being completed. It will be based on using science and advanced technologies to the utmost to achieve new quality of armament and military equipment. The experiment is being conducted on forming the forces on a contractual basis. General Lata has the information that some 54.5 thousand servicemen were enrolled on contract by April. This makes up 53 per cent of the plan for 1993.

The development of the Russian forces is to be completed at the second stage (1993-1995). The basis for their deep-going transformation will be created. General Lata noted that till 1996 the Russian forces will consist of five armed services and that their numerical strength will be 1.5 million by 1995. The further reduction of the forces to one million is possible in future, but this cannot be achieved earlier for social and everyday reasons. The number of officers' families having no flats will rise to 400 thousand in the years ahead. There is no doubt that the reduction of the Russian forces numerical strength will continue after 1995.

Answering questions from foreign military diplomats, Lieutenant-General Vladimir Bondartsev, first deputy chief of the Main Conscription Department of the Russian Forces General Staff, said that only five out of every 100 youths are now called up into the Army. Others are given call-up deferment. The general said the system of deferments should be revised so that every conscript fit for military service served in the Russian forces. He said the proposal to reduce the duration of the military service on call-up to one year is now being considered, but there is little chance for it to be passed.

Arms Trade's Status, Future Examined

PM1005132193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 93 p 4

[Interview with Colonel General Mikhail Sergeychik by Colonel Valentin Rudenko; date and place not given: "'Oboroneksport' Is a Reliable Firm"]

[Excerpts] You will find few organizations in our country which enjoy such international recognition and prestige as "Oboroneksport," the Russian State Foreign Economic Association for the Export of Goods and Services of Military Designation, which is currently marking its 40th anniversary. We asked Colonel General Mikhail Sergeychik to share with us his reminiscences of the past and his views on the problems of the arms trade: Mikhail Alekseyevich was there at the start of the Main Engineering Directorate, of which "Oboroneksport" is the legal successor, and subsequently headed it for many years. [passage omitted]

[Rudenko] Mikhail Alekseyevich, how competitive were our weapons in the fifties, sixties, and seventies?

[Sergeychik] I can say quite definitely that, in the countries with which we worked, there was nothing the West could do during those years. Our weapons enjoyed great prestige, and the desire to acquire them was certainly not due just to political considerations, as people sometimes make out. We exported our defense products to many countries in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America at the time, and I do not recall a single instance of a claim for replacement of defective goods ever being received.

[Rudenko] I have repeatedly heard people say that we only sold obsolete models of armaments. It is clear from what you say this was not at all so...

[Sergeychik] Indeed not! All the weapons we exported were competitive with the American ones. Otherwise, who would have bought them. Of course, there were models of armaments, the latest ones naturally, which we held back for the time being, as it were, because of their secrecy or great importance to the defense capability of the USSR. There are also, I would imagine, arms systems at the design stage today which we did not take to the Abu Dhabi fair for those same reasons, although I am sure that the West was greatly surprised by what our country did present there. Never before had we exhibited such a wide range of the most up-to-date combat hardware and arms abroad.

[Rudenko] I should like to know your assessment of the results of the fair. It cost us, we know, a pretty penny, but the results to date are, alas...

[Sergeychik] I am not going to sum up the results of the fair in dollar terms. I do not know about others, but I, believe me, know full well that you do not sell anything

on the spur of the moment at the fair itself. If contracts are sometimes concluded there, they are, as a rule, the fruit of many months of labor or even years of preliminary talks.

I do not think I will be offending against the truth if I say that "Oboroneksport" did everything to ensure that the country showed its wares to advantage in Abu Dhabi. Prospective buyers had a wonderful opportunity to see our antiaircraft missile systems, artillery systems, armored vehicles, and other armaments in action and to compare them with the foreign models. At the fair the Western countries kept the demonstration of their own systems on the test range to the minimum. They clearly realized that the comparison would not be to their advantage, so the results of the exhibition, including in dollar terms, will not be long in coming.

[Rudenko] Some people feel that "Oboroneksport" has outlived its usefulness, that the arms trade system must be radically altered, and that the right to sell arms should be granted to the actual producers.

[Sergeychik] I categorically disagree with that viewpoint. The arms trade should be strictly regulated and controlled by the state. And it should be run by a single organization. Naturally, with the active involvement of the industry, scientific research institutes, and design bureaus.

Incidentally, we always worked in close contact with the plants and knew each director and chief designer. No negotiations were carried out or a single contract signed without their involvement. Take, for example, the aircraft plant in Komsomolsk-na-Amure. Today it is one of the leading exporters of combat aircraft. Thanks to the committed joint work of the plant and the Main Engineering Directorate, 15 versions of SU [Sukhoy] planes were supplied to 17 countries in the world over two decades. And hundreds of such examples can be cited.

I am very worried that some leaders of defense enterprises want to bypass "Oboroneksport" and sell their products via dubious middlemen. Some of them have already burned their fingers here and need no persuading now of the advisability of having "Oboroneksport." But is it really necessary for everyone to have bad experiences before they realize the simple truth that the arms trade is a delicate business that requires special preparation and professional knowledge of the state of the market? It must not be put in the hands of amateurs. Incidentally, no one in the United States would sell a single round of ammunition without the authorization of the secretary of state and the Pentagon. I am sure that only close contact between "Oboroneksport" and the defense industry will bring success and enable us to win rather than lose arms markets, as has happened of late.

[Rudenko] "Oboroneksport" has had a glorious past and is experiencing, there is no hiding it, a difficult present; what, in your view, will its future be like?

[Sergeychik] Making forecasts is a thankless task. Nevrtheless, I do believe that as long as our country deals in weapons, "Oboroneksport" is indispensable to it. It would be a major folly to destroy a structure which has demonstrated its devotion to the fatherland and its great professionalism and competence for many years now by action rather than mere words.

Kurchatov Institute Involved in New 'Majestic' Projects

LD0805170293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 8 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Summary] Everyone gets out of a crisis in their own way. The Kurchatov Institute, the Russian nuclear research center, is proving that Russian science is extremely viable. On the eve of its 50th anniversary, development work has started simultaneously on two majestic projects. One is traditional, a thermonuclear reactor and a follow-on to the Tokamak idea, which will be created in conjunction with the United States, Japan, and the European Community. This reactor produces gigantic amounts of energy and a temperature exceeding 100 million degrees.

The main feature of the power installation of the 21st century is its safety and its independence of resources.

The second project is the conversion of the Navy's atomic fleet and the transfer of the energies of militarization to developing Russia's maritime shelf. Leading military research centers and the Rubin, Malakhit, and Lazurit design offices, the Krylov Institute, and Prometey are involved with the Kurchatov Institute on this project. Platforms for drilling and extracting oil and gas from the shelf are to be built at the Severodvinsk machinebuilding works instead of atomic submarines.

Investments in this project will make it possible not only to provide more jobs but also to stabilize the ruble in the opinion of the project's initiators. They reckon that three, four, or five of these global projects could have a fundamental impact on the recovery of the Russian economy, and the results should be felt by everyone not in 10-15 years' time, as is usually the case in our country, but from the moment that the projects begin to be implemented.

Higher Pay, Allowances for Contract Servicemen Announced

PM1105133993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 4

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Council of Ministers Supports Professionals' Pay"]

[Text] The Russian Army, which was exactly one year old on 7 May, is keeping to its sure course of being

staffed on a professional basis. And, although the principle of manpower acquisition today is still mixed (both contract staffing and the draft), the Russian Council of Ministers has given the "green light" to the selection of professionals—new enhanced pay scales have been ratified for sailors, soldiers, noncommissioned officers, petty officers, warrant officers, and ensigns who will be serving under contract.

"The new rates," Colonel Vladimir Belov, chief of the Russian Defense Ministry's Main Directorate for the Military Budget and Financing, explained, "are based on the Russian Federation Law 'On the Status of Servicemen,' which states that pay rates for the primary military duties of soldiers and sailors serving under contract cannot be less than five times the minimum wage, while pay for military rank [voinskiye zvaniya] cannot be less than one-half the military duty pay rates."

As of 1 April this year the minimum wage in Russia was 4,275 rubles [R]. Hence the minimum pay rates for professional soldiers and sailors (riflemen, drivers, torpedo men) range from R21,500 to R23,000 depending on position on the scale. Junior commanders (of squads, combat vehicles, or tanks, deputy platoon commanders, and technicians) will receive R23,000-25,000. Positions staffed by warrant officers, ensigns, or relevant specialists from missile or surface-to-air missile units are now "worth" R25,000-26,500.

Russian Council of Ministers decree No. 340 also lays down new rates of pay for military ranks. Soldiers and ordinary seamen will receive R11,000, with the corresponding rates being R11,500 for privates first class and senior seamen, R12,000 for junior sergeants and petty officers second class, R12,500 for sergeants and petty officers first class, R13,000 for senior sergeants and chief petty officers, R13,500 for petty officers and master chief petty officers, and R15,000 for warrant officers and ensigns.

This decree increases pay rates for students at secondary and higher military training establishments. Having concluded a military service contract, they will be paid R22,000-23,000 depending on their duties, and, in addition, the corresponding amount of money as a military rank payment.

All servicemen who have concluded contracts will receive a one-shot allowance equal to their pay rate—a minimum of R32,500. And if they subsequently extend their contract for three, five, or 10 years, they will receive another allowance of once, twice, or five times their pay rate. Moreover, the one-shot money emolument for the conscientious fulfillment of their duties every year will amount to three times the pay rate, and servicemen will also receive material assistance of one additional salary. This too is payable once a year.

It should also be taken into account that service under special conditions—in airborne assault units, tank and aircraft crews, on board ship, in remote areas, in areas with severe climatic conditions, and for being on combat alert—entails additional payments. These can range from 15 to 100 percent of pay.

On the whole, I was told at the Main Directorate for the Military Budget and Financing, servicemen who have concluded contracts will be paid the following amounts in primary posts as of 1 April (disregarding supplementary payments)—R32,500 a month in the Ground Forces, R33,000 in the Strategic Rocket Forces, R36,800 in the Airborne Troops, R38,950 in the Air Force, and in the Navy (personnel in service afloat) from R41,100 on surface ships to R47,300 on nuclear submarines. The basic pay of servicemen under contract on the territories of the states of the Transcaucasus or the Baltic, or in Tajikistan and Moldova is increased by 50 percent, and by 100 percent for those serving in state-of-emergency areas.

Pay rates for draftees serving under ordinary conditions are R1,900-3,800.

Professional soldiers and sailors receive an annual uniform allowance of R30,000, and free monthly rations worth more than R6,000. They can enjoy free travel during their leave every year—of 30-45 days depending on length of service—and free study on correspondence courses and at evening school, if service conditions permit. They receive a guaranteed pension after 20 years' service. In the event of a contract with a professional being canceled as a result of a criminal conviction, discharge from service [lisheniye voinskogo zvaniya], failure to carry out contractual commitments or to meet the conditions of service, or the commission of an act bringing the honor and dignity of servicemen into disrepute, those to be discharged shall repay the entire amount of the one-shot allowances paid to them, calculated proportionally on the basis of the period left until expiry of the contract.

It should be added that in 1993 the Russian Army plans to attract 100,000 volunteers, and quite a large number of women, to its banner.

Need for Religious, Moral Training in Army Discussed

OW0905003093

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television and Dubl Networks in Russian at 2346 GMT on 24 April in the 30-minute "Aty Baty" program carry a 22-minute report on the lack of spiritual support and moral guidance for troops in the Russian Army. A presenter says the report was prompted by the impending spring military service call-up, and the trepidation felt by parents and eligible youngsters over the horror stories circulating about life in the military. Video shows stills of a young soldier's funeral, a priest conducting a memorial service with tearful family and friends, and shots of call-up age youths in the street.

The report features interviews with Colonel N. M. Moroz, assistant in charge of personnel to the Commander in Chief of Strategic Rocket Forces; Lieutenant Colonel A. V. Pchelintsev, chairman of "Vera i Muzhestvo, "Faith and Fortitude", the Christian Servicemen's Association; Major A. B. Yevsyuk, member of "Vera i Muzhestvo,", and citizens in the street, some of whom say they no longer consider the military a good training ground for their children.

Moroz says: "If we talk about the sort of Russian Army we are to have in the future, one that can realistically and proudly be called The Russian Army, then undoubtedly we will have to improve living conditions and the quality of life for people. We have to concern ourselves with civilized intercourse, civilized service relations, and civilized personal relations, all of which have to be taught to the commanders, staff officers and personnel officers."

Video shows a split screen montage of shots of youths dancing and police breaking up a brawl, while the other half screen runs captions giving statistics that out of every 100 youths called up for military service, 47 come from single parent families, 24 have broken the law, 13 are registered at a drug clinic, and that 97 out of 100 said "no" when asked if they wanted to serve in the army.

Moroz rejects the claim that today's army is a "moral abyss," saying that "concepts of honor, dignity, courage, and devotion to the motherland have not changed," and that despite the difficulties in the country "it must be said that officers remain true to these concepts, even though these concepts are not yet enshrined in law." He says that today, despite the lack of official policy, religion is being used to fill the spiritual and moral training vacuum created by the removal of party training.

Video shows a Russian Orthodox church, then cuts to show Pchelintsev being interviewed. He says that the army today is in a deep moral and spiritual crisis, and because of spiritual needs many servicemen are coming to religion to fill the vacuum left by the removal of training in Marxist-Leninist dogma. He maintains that the Law on the Status of Servicemen, particularly parts of Article 8 which states that "it is forbidden to form religious groups in military units", needs to be changed. He says: "At one time the Communist Party predominated and practically everyone, servicemen and officers to a man, were communists. We were the only country to be politicized along the party line in this way. Today, we are again trying to lead the world by being the only country which forbids creation of religious groups in military units." He adds that recognition of religious holidays for servicemen, which existed before 1919, should be reinstated.

Video shows archival footage of the destruction of churches. A citizen interviewed in the street says that chaplains are necessary in the army to guide and counsel young people removed from familiar surroundings.

Major Yevsyuk, a former political worker, tells of finding religion after reassessing his life during a difficult time on peacekeeping duty in Azerbaijan.

Major I. V. Rogovoy, a research sociologist, presents the results of a poll based on a test sample of 1,000 servicemen from various units in 12 regions of Russia, and another nearly 1,000 servicemen who are teachers and students at higher military institutions. The poll showed that 25 percent were believers, 35 percent had not yet determined their relationship with God, 30 percent said that they were unbelievers, and 10 percent defined themselves as atheists. A poll was also taken among clergy of various religions who agreed that the absence of spiritual guidance in the military was a problem. Seventy five percent of them thought it necessary to create an institute of military chaplains in the armed forces, and that the introduction of religion into the army would help to solve a number of educational and combat training problems.

Video then shows an interview with a retired U.S. Army colonel and head of the "Military Service—New Life" organization. He is asked to share his experiences in educating servicemen in the U.S. Army, to provide some positive examples, and to could they be useful in the formation of a new Russian army. He says that the Russian Army has significantly older and deeper traditions, and that the experience of the Russian armed forces in the successful conduct of military operations and the training of servicemen are traditions that are also older and deeper.

Moroz is asked whether there are already people in the Rocket Forces who set an example through noble and heroic deeds. He replies that Russia has never had a lack of examples of courage, heroism and devotion even in everyday life, and that there are many officers who serve as such examples.

He says: "An officer carries out 18 days of combat duty per month in these difficult times of manpower acquisition. These are examples of courage to follow and respect." He names a Captain Yakovlev who gave his life to save a launch installation.

Video shows an interview with Andrey Surzhikov, an officer cadet, who tells of capturing an armed criminal, an action which earned him an award for personal courage.

The report ends with shots of military training interspersed with scenes from a film on the passions of Christ.

Development of Russian Army Viewed

PM1005135393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 May 93 pp 1,2

[Anatoliy Dokuchayev report: "Russian Federation Armed Forces Mark First Anniversary Today"]

[Text] Of course our present army is the direct heir to the glorious traditions and famous victories of Russian armies of yore. It is heir to the traditions of those who covered themselves in glory on the ice of Lake Peipus, at Kalka, Kulikovo Field, Poltava, and Borodino...

Undoubtedly, today's Russian Army is the legal heir to the Soviet Armed Forces, who routed fascist Germany's Wehrmacht in World War II and safeguarded the postwar decades of peace for our fellow countrymen...

Even so, this is a qualitatively new army. An army about to enter the 21st century.

Exactly one year ago, two days before Victory Day, the president of the Russian Federation signed the Edict on the Creation of the Russian Armed Forces. Opinions on this decision differed at that time because people found it hard to relinquish the idea of the united Armed Forces. But today it may be firmly stated that the country's leadership made the right move then. After all, to be completely truthful, the unified Armed Forces no longer existed at that time. The majority of the republics of our former, once united state went all out to develop their own national armies and "privatized" the hardware, armament, and military property deployed on their territories. What was left for Russia?..

A year has now passed. The Armed Forces are functioning in Russia. They are the guarantor of stability in our state and the guarantor of strategic security in the world. They bear the burden of peace on their shoulders. Let us recall that peacemaking battalions from the Russian Army are to be found in most trouble spots today.

All these things are the reality and they cannot be denied.

For the Russian Army to acquire specific shape the state institutions of power, the Russian Defense Ministry, and the Armed Forces General Staff (who were in the formative stage themselves last year) had the most enormous job to do. After all, the Russian Army is being built on the wreckage of the USSR Armed Forces in a literal sense of the word. The most combat-capable units of the border districts (the second strategic echelon) had gone to Ukraine and Belarus... In addition, Russia had to shoulder the quite onerous problems of the troops being withdrawn from the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics. That is why in essence the leadership of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the military department had then and still have to resolve four most complex tasks at the same time—creating an army, ensuring the planned withdrawal and resettlement of troops, and reducing and reforming the Armed Forces.

If we take just a brief look at the work involved in withdrawing the troops we will see the scale of what needs to be done. In 1992 15 divisions, 23 missile, artillery, and antiaircraft brigades, 36 aviation and helicopter regiments, almost 100,000 servicemen, approximately 2,000 tanks, and 1,500 artillery systems were brought back to Russian territory... Let us add to that the 1 million tonnes of material and technical resources that have been withdrawn.

This work is not over. An additional 17 combined arms divisions and 20 aviation and helicopter regiments will be brought back to Russia before the end of 1995. In all this will be 250,000 servicemen including 95,000 officers and NCO's. This means that we face another colossal job in resettling our soldiers.

It should be noted that all this work was and is being carried out in a complex sociopolitical and economic situation.

The solution of problems of the organizational development of the Army is made more complex by the fact that the structural composition of the troops Russia has received does not correspond to the new tasks and requirements. Furthermore, the groupings it has inherited cannot be called an integrated military organism. The systems of combat control and communications, operational-strategic configuration, and backup in them have broken down. Thus all the significant measures planned in 1993 could be regarded as practical steps which have made it possible to slow down the decline in combat readiness of the troops of the former USSR and restore reliable management. I would say that among these tasks the main and most significant ones are to replan the use of the nuclear forces omitting the nuclear forces stationed in Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine and the arms and combat hardware which they have inherited, and the disbandment of directorates of the High Commands of sectors, of the Turkestan Military District, of two armies, the 4th and the 7th, which were stationed in the Transcaucasus, and of eight divisions, the reduction of the Army by approximately 200,000 people, and the withdrawal of troops to Russian territory.

A start has been made on the formation of new troop groupings on Russian territory in the light of the prevailing conditions. The Urals Military District has been reinstated. The grouping of the North Caucasus Military District is being reformed. As Army General Pavel Grachev, the defense minister, noted at the recent All-Russian Assembly of Reserve Officers, in just a few months five combat-capable brigades and regiments of bombers and fighter bombers have been created in the North Caucasus Military District and two airborne divisions have been withdrawn to this district. As the defense minister said, an air-defense system is being created in the North Caucasus Military District.

Thus we are witnessing substantial changes in the organizational development of the Army. Furthermore, it is important to note that the formation of new troop groupings is taking place according to the concept of mobile defense that has been elaborated. As high-ranking representatives of our military department have stated a number of times, Russia is abandoning the principle of forming defense of equal strength

[ravnoznachnaya oborona] along its entire border, as used to happen under the USSR.

First, the political conditions have changed—Russia has no obvious enemies. Furthermore, the directive to reduce Armed Forces to 1.5 million men leads us in this direction [scaling down the defense of the border]. Defense groupings will now be formed from three elements—covering forces, the Mobile Forces, and the reserves.

I should like to make a special comment on the Mobile Forces. This is a milestone in our military organizational development. When necessary the mobile subunits that are being created will be able to advance to the areas under threat in the shortest possible time. The idea is already starting to take shape. Much work is being done in this area by the command of the airborne troops, whose units will presumably form the basis of the Mobile forces.

There is another important factor which, despite the existing difficulties, emphasizes the fact that our Army is a powerful combat organism—namely, the broad participation of Russian units in UN peacemaking operations and in the collective peacekeeping forces in the CIS. We often focus special attention on the actions of our "military plenipotentiaries" when we want to say that it is thanks to them that bloodshed in Yugoslavia, the Dniester region, Tajikistan, and South Ossetia... has been reduced. Often we forget that all this is ensured by the high combat capability of Russian subunits. There have been favorable comments about our battalion in Yugoslavia from the UN Secretariat and from the commander of the UN forces in that country. The battalion has been called one of the best units in the peacemaking contingent.

In brief, the Russian Army is standing on its own two feet.

Does the existing detachment of Russian "professionals" not demonstrate that fact? For so many years we said that they were needed and now there are several tens of thousands of them already in combat formation. The Army and the Navy are switching to the mixed principle of recruitment. It is pleasing that even in such complex economic conditions the country has found the necessary resources to recruit "professionals." By 1995, 30 percent of the enlisted men and sergeants will be professionals. By the year 2000 that will be about 50 percent.

The Russian Armed Forces are a year old. Much has been done in the past 12 months. Much has been overlooked of course, that cannot be denied, but the Army's foundation has been laid. Drafts of the fundamentals of the military doctrine and the concept of military-technical policy have been developed—they are all a basis for the further organizational development of the Armed Forces.

Undoubtedly it will be made easier by the fact that military operational development has a legal foundation to rest on. Four fundamental laws relating to defense have been adopted—the laws "On Security," "On defense," "On military service obligation and military service," "On the status of servicemen"—along with a number of other legal acts. As practical experience shows, of course, they do not remove all the complex barriers on the high road of the organizational development of the Army. But nevertheless...

The second (1993-1995) and third (post-1995) stages of military organizational development are ahead of us. During the second stage it is proposed that the formation of the Armed Forces will be completed and the basis for their in-depth transformation will be created. Work to create groupings of troops (forces) and the military infrastructure will be continued. The mixed system of recruitment is gaining momentum. During these years comprehensive studies will be carried out into the validity of the numerical strength, combat composition, and structure of the Armed Forces for the post-1995 period.

In the third stage it is planned to complete the creation of qualitatively new Armed Forces. Their structures and branches and categories of troops will be radically transformed. The creation of troop groupings will in the main be completed. The transition to a mixed system of recruitment of Army and Navy personnel will continue.

These are large-scale tasks. Will they be carried out? Do the preconditions for that exist? They do. The main one is that Russia is beginning to be reborn. But a strong state cannot have a weak army. The following factor gives grounds for that assertion. The measures that must be carried out in these years have been well thought out. There is a well-developed concept for the operational development of the Armed Forces.

We have been discussing the creation of new troop groupings. The approaches to their creation already exist in the form of strict plans. During their formation the existence of certain strategic regions and strategic and operational sectors and the real degree of the military danger and level of the military threat in each of them will be taken into account, as will the existence of the conditions for ensuring the rapid removal of troops from possible missile and air attack, the conditions for the billetting, resettlement, and daily activity of troops, their training, supply, support, and so forth. In other words the operational development of the army is being conducted on a legal basis and on the basis of a well honed and efficient plan.

Here is a characteristic feature. The first subunit of the military department and, it may be said, of the Russian Armed Forces was the Defense Ministry's Directorate for Military Organizational Development and Reforms where considerable intellectual potential had been accumulated. It may now be said that in the form of this directorate military science has been given a kind of carte blanche. This agency accumulates ideas and proposals produced in various centers of the country and the

Army—in directorates, staffs, and troops... When an idea is created it can immediately receive a serious feasibility study in a directorate and through it in a military academy or scientific research institute.

Optimism is also inspired by the fact that the Russian Army is restoring the best traditions of Russian soldiery to their rightful place in the combat formation. The glorious names from our ancient history are now becoming part of our spirit like the names of the heroes and commanders of the Great Patriotic War times, where our fellow countrymen forged Russia's military glory.

The modern Russian Army will be a full-blooded one because, I believe, it will be nurtured by its entire most heroic and glorious history where there will be no valves closing the arteries. Perhaps it is symbolic that at a time when the Commonwealth states are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Great Patriotic War the news has come from St. Petersburg that at the Military Artillery College they are reviving traditions which were established when the college bore the name Mikhaylovskoye.

We need to know the history of the defense of the fatherland not just so that we do not become like the Mankurts [characters from Aytmatov novel with no knowledge of their past] or your average Ivan with no recollection of his kith and kin but to understand what is going on today and to look to our future. To the present generation of Russian servicemen has befallen the honor (may the reader forgive me for these hackneyed words) of introducing a modern military culture into the Army and a purpose in life.

Whatever may be said about the Russian Army today and whatever misfortunes and ills may befall it, it is developing and progressing. Missilemen are taking their place on combat alert, fighter-interceptors take to the air whenever necessary to intercept invading aircraft, infantry fighting vehicles and tanks are wading through the mud on the exercise ground... People in uniform, Russians, are learning how to protect their Fatherland...

Supreme Soviet

Chairman Appointed to Investigation Commission

LD1105140193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet today, People's Deputy Yuriy Yudin was elected chairman of the parliamentary commission investigating the events in Moscow on 1 May. Yuriy Yudin also headed a similar commission which investigated the events of 23 February last year.

Supreme Soviet Issues Victory Day Appeal

PM1005124993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 May 93 p 1

[Appeal by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet dated 6 May 1993 under "At the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet" rubric: "In Connection With the Upcoming Celebration of Victory Day 9 May"]

[Text] Dear Compatriots!

Dear veterans of the Great Patriotic War!

The great festival of all the peoples who conquered fascism—Victory Day—is approaching.

We bow low before all who defended our motherland—both those who fell and those who live!

The peoples of our motherland are forever united in their common grief for those who fell and their common joy for the Great Victory. May the sacred memory of the feat of our mothers and fathers serve peace and accord in the world.

The new generations' debt is to preserve this memory and preserve the unity of our motherland for which such a high price was paid. To be worthy of the great history of our fatherland means to raise yourself above transitory strife and work together in the name of the glory of the fatherland and the people's well-being.

We believe that our duty is to ease the veterans' position in the current economic and political situation.

We call on the Russian Federation president and Government to do everything incumbent on them to ensure national conciliation. All of us are in great need of peace now; we need the accord of the whole of society. May politics become the art of coordinating interests rather than a struggle for power.

We appeal to all political parties, organizations, and movements, and to all Russians, to pool efforts in order to greet Victory Day in a fitting way.

Let 9 May—the Day of the Great Victory—be a day of national accord!

[Signed] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] 6 May 1993

Statement on May Day Demonstrations

PM1005114993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 May 93 p 1

[Supreme Soviet Statement dated 6 May 1993 under the rubric "In the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet": "On the May Day Events in Moscow City"]

[Text] For the first time in the past few decades, a clash occurred between demonstrators and organs of public law and order during the 1 May ceremonial procession.

Blood was shed. According to preliminary figures, over 500 people were injured, including workers, engineers, scientists, doctors, servicemen, war and labor veterans, women, and law enforcement organs workers. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet believes that the Moscow City executive organs of power did not take the necessary measures to ensure that the procession would be peaceful and safe.

Respecting the constitutional right of citizens of freedom to hold processions and demonstrations, the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet expresses sincere sympathy to the injured and their families, and condemns the anticonstitutional actions committed by individuals who provoke the occurrence of illegal actions, the deterioration of the internal situation in the country, the intensification of instability, and an increase in conflict processes.

The country needs peace, stability, and the observance of rights and guarantees for every citizen. The all-Russian referendum also showed this: The people retained their confidence both in the president and in the Russian Federation people's deputies.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet firmly states that the protection of the Constitution, law and order, the interests of the people, and the democratic transformations in Russia continue to be the main aims and tasks of the representative power, just as they have been in the past.

[Signed] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] 6 May 1993

Decree on Schedule for Adopting New Constitution

PM1005162593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 1

["Decree of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet 'On Completing Work On the Draft of the Russian Federation's Constitution'"; dated 29 April and signed by Supreme Soviet Chairman R. Khasbulatov]

[Text] In execution of the 9 December 1992 Decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies "On Further Work on the Draft of the New Russian Federation Constitution" and the 12 March 1993 Decree of the Eighth Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies "On Measures To Implement Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation (On the Decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies 'On Stabilizing the Russian Federation's Constitutional Order')," the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees:

1. That it be incumbent upon the Constitutional Commission in conjunction with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Republic and Soviet of Nationalities to complete the modification of the draft fundamental provisions of the new Russian Federation Constitution and their coordination with the Russian Federation president, and to send them for coordination to republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and cities of federal significance, by 20 May 1993;

2. That it be incumbent upon the supreme soviets of republics within the Russian Federation, kray and oblast soviets of people's deputies, and those of the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and cities of federal significance, to examine at their sessions the draft of the fundamental provisions of the new Russian Federation Constitution, and to send their observations and proposals on the aforementioned draft to the Constitutional Commission by 10 June 1993.

3. That parliamentary hearings on the draft fundamental statutes of the new Russian Federation Constitution be held 25 May 1993, with the invitation of representatives from organs of state power of republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and cities of federal significance, scientists and lawyers, and specialists in the sphere of state law.

4. That it be incumbent upon the Constitutional Commission to modify the draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution with due account of the proposals from republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, and cities of federal significance, and to submit the modified draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution for examination by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet by 30 June 1993.

5. That it be incumbent upon the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet to complete an article-by-article examination of the draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution by 10 October 1993.

6. That the draft of the new Russian Federation Constitution be published no later than 15 October 1993.

7. That, in line with the 9 December 1993 [date as published] Decree of the Seventh Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies "On Further Work on the Draft of the New Russian Federation Constitution," a Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies be convened 17 November 1993 to examine and adopt the new Russian Federation Constitution.

8. That it be incumbent upon the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Legislation Committee in conjunction with the Constitutional Commission, with due account of the interests of Russian Federation subjects and the federal organs of state power, to prepare by 1 June 1993 a draft law on amendments and additions to the Constitution (Fundamental Law) of the Russian Federation/Russia linked with the procedure for adopting the new Russian Federation Constitution. The aforementioned draft law must be submitted for examination by the

Russian Federation Supreme Soviet with its subsequent presentation at the next Congress of Russian Federation People's Deputies.

[Signed] R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet

[Dated] Moscow, House of Soviets of Russia; 29 April 1993

No. 4907-1

Head of Corruption Commission Appointed

LD1105142693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—Aleksandr Makarov, state counsellor of justice, has been appointed chief of the special commission of the Prosecutor-General's Office of the Russian Federation to investigate materials on officials corruption. The decree of the Russian Parliament's Presidium adopted today also says that for the duration of the commission's work Makarov is appointed Russia's first deputy prosecutor-general.

The special commission of the Prosecutor-General's Office was formed in April "for objective and all-round investigation and verification of facts of corruption and abuses of position, and economic crime, including those mentioned in Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy's April 16 report".

Regional Affairs

Chernomyrdin Tours Enterprises in Orenburg Oblast

PM1005103993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 May 93 p 2

[Valeriy Vedernikov report: "Prime Minister's 'Day in Country.' Second Day of V.S. Chernomyrdin's Stay in Orenburg Oblast"]

[Text] Orenburg—Yesterday can rightly be called the prime minister's "day in the country." He visited southern and central rayons of Orenburg Oblast. His first stop was the "Privolnoye" closed-type joint-stock company in Ilekskiy Rayon. Until recently this was the "Privolnyy" State Farm. Grain growers and livestock raisers pin great hopes on the reforming of the farm. Viktor Stepanovich emphasized that the chief task now is to increase the volumes of output from fields and livestock units, while at the same time reducing expenditure on its production. This is no easy task, if you consider the now chronic disruption of parity between the purchase price of agricultural produce and the price of equipment and mineral fertilizers. The premier emphasized that the state has helped and will help the countryside. But it is important that the credits allocated go to the right place and produce a high return.

Tashlinskiy Rayon was the next landing place for the prime minister's helicopter. Unlike many people, the people of Tashlinskiy Rayon have managed to maintain the numbers of livestock. They are getting stable milk yields and weight increases. Great attention here is devoted to sociocultural and domestic facilities. All villages in the rayon have been fully connected to the gas supply.

Finally, Saraktashskiy Rayon. This has its trump cards. The rayon is tackling the processing of agricultural produce quite well. There are a vegetable canning plant, a flour mill, and other enterprises of this nature. It is no secret that hundreds and thousands of tonnes of products are lost and spoiled because of the sector's neglected state. Contracts have been concluded, and tens of imported shops and small plants have already been purchased for the processing of meat and other agricultural products.

In Saraktashskiy Rayon the prime minister went into...an operating theater. Don't worry. Viktor Stepanovich's health is in order. It was simply that at that moment an operating theater on wheels arrived there—a car of the "Eye Microsurgery" Interbranch Scientific Technical Complex. The superbly equipped operating car travels along the South Urals Railroad and gives people back their sight, freeing them from the need to travel directly to Orenburg.

The prime minister's "day in the country" ended in the village of Chernyy Otrog, where his fellow-countrymen greeted him warmly.

Ends Orenburg Visit

PM1105125793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 May 93 p 1

[Valeriy Vedernikov report: "Last Day of Visit. Prime Minister Ends Visit To Orenburg Oblast"]

[Text] Orenburg—The last day of the visit seemed extremely busy. In the morning, the prime minister visited the Orenburg gas processing plant, where he was once director. A meeting was held with leaders of the oblast's fuel and energy complex. Future prospects of processing gas from the Karachaganak deposit in Kazakhstan were discussed, as well as the future of the fourth phase of the plant, whose construction was stopped when funding was discontinued. The oil workers raised the issue of increasing the quota for sale abroad of the crude oil they extract.

Viktor Chernomyrdin visited the Orenburg higher military college for pilots, where Yuriy Gagarin once learned to fly. In accordance with current military doctrine, the school was disbanded a few months ago. The question of forming a higher college for civil aviation pilots on its

basis was being studied. A meeting with representatives of the oblast's "power" structures discussed stepping up the fight against crime.

A conference with the oblast's leadership was held. A short press conference was organized for journalists. Viktor Chernomyrdin left Orenburg for Moscow last night.

Begins Northern Caucasus Tour

LD1005141093 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1230 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin has begun his visit to the northern Caucasus. Today he flew by helicopter over the border areas of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. The Russian premier will spend the second half of the day in Vladikavkaz, and tonight he will be flying to Nalchik where tomorrow he is expected to attend a session of the coordinating council of the heads of north Caucasian autonomous republics. The council is planning to discuss possible ways of solving the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. Later tomorrow Viktor Chernomyrdin intends to visit Makhachkala, capital of Dagestan.

Pavel Gushkov, head of our regional correspondents' center in northern Caucasus, has been in touch with us and has asked to give us more details about Chernomyrdin's visit. Thank you, Pavel:

[Gushkov] Good day! At this time Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin's meeting with the persons accompanying him is under way or may even be already ending in the village of Krepost, where deported Ingush refugees are living. But, generally speaking, the day has passed according to the planned program, and the focal event was the meeting in the administrative building in Nazran, where an important, in-depth conference was held.

Taking part, apart from Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, were Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev; Ruslan Takiyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers of that republic; Sergey Shakhray; Valentin Stepankov, procurator of the Russian Federation; and Colonel General Yuriy Shatalin, head of the provisional administration. The central feature was a report by Boris Agapov, vice president of the Ingush Republic. This was a very detailed report, full of facts, although it went on for about 15 minutes. The main point of it was that it is necessary to avoid a build-up of tension as quickly as possible because the conflicts at the start of May, and the relatively smaller ones in April, have shown that there are latent fires which might flare up into a blaze.

The Chairman of the Ingushetia Council of Ministers has put forward a significant [word indistinct] proposal on the economic development of Ingushetia. And Procurator Valentin Stepankov provided some information about the difficulties of the investigation. [words indistinct] say that, in his assessment of what he had heard, Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, said that he has been able to learn more here than he had ever imagined, and that neither Russian President Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin nor he himself has received such detailed information. According to the Russian premier, all measures will be taken to stabilize the situation in the region, and everything will be done as quickly as possible to help develop this, the youngest republic in Russia.

Well, at the moment, as you have already said, he is with hundreds of guests of Vladikavkaz, and tomorrow he will be in Nalchik.

Economic Problems Focus of Visit

LD1005171393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Russian premier had a busy day today. A Russian Government delegation, headed by Viktor Chernomyrdin, arrived in the North Caucasus today. In the course of a two day trip, it will visit Ingushetia, North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, and Dagestan.

[I. Barchukov] The main purpose of Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to the North Caucasus is to tackle the urgent economic problems. This is what he said himself in a brief interview immediately on arrival by air. However, taking the region's specific features into account, namely that North Ossetia and Ingushetia are a zone of a continuing interethnic conflict, it would be difficult to hope that economy alone will be the focus of the trip. A conference the Russian prime minister had with the leaders of the opposing republics finally did become constructive. Within a month, ministers from the republics and their Russian counterparts are to present specific economic programs where implementation deadlines are specified; they are also to agree on coordinated actions to have them implemented. For his part, Viktor Chernomyrdin promised all-round assistance from the Russian Government for all actions aimed at making it possible for the conflict-weakened republics to extricate themselves from the crisis.

Report on Conflict Expected

LD1005164793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The office of the Russian procurator general will shortly deliver a report on the causes of last autumn's Ossetian-Ingush conflict. This was announced today by Valentin Stepankov, who was speaking in Nazran at a meeting between the head of the Russian government, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Ingushetia's leadership and elders.

Valentin Stepankov said that at present a 140-strong team of inquiry is working in the conflict zone. Some 200 criminal proceedings have been instituted, most of them related to incidents of burglary, murder, and rape. The

procurator general noted that the inquiry is being conducted in difficult, near-combat conditions. Several investigators have been killed in the course of their work.

Ingush Premier Seeks Aid

LD1005170993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Addressing a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Ruslan Takiyev, head of the Ingush Government, stressed that the republican economy is in a profound crisis: 56 percent of Ingushetia's work force is unemployed; last year's production decline reached 61 percent; Ingushetia's prices are between 30 and 40 percent higher than in neighboring Vladikavkaz and Groznyy. The prime minister of the Ingush Republic asked the federal government to make 60 billion rubles and $10 million available this year.

Viktor Chernomyrdin promised to help Ingushetia, but stressed that the assistance will be forthcoming for specific projects only.

'Extraordinary' Security Measures Taken

LD1005192193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 May 93

[By correspondent German Solomatin from North Caucasus; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] RIA reported today that the authorities of North Ossetia and Ingushetia have taken extraordinary security measures in connection with the arrival of Viktor Chernomyrdin, head of the Russian government, in the North Caucasus. All routes are monitored by internal troops and militia. Military helicopters are following the premier wherever he goes.

Our correspondents have just sent in a detailed report on the talks the Russian delegation has held over there all day.

[Solomatin] A Russian government delegation led by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in North Caucasus today. The delegation includes Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray and a number of ministers and deputy ministers from the majority of Russian key ministries. Interviewed at Vladikavkaz airport, Viktor Chernomyrdin said that the purpose of the trip was...

[Begin Chernomyrdin recording] ... to see and to check the way things are going, what has been done [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Solomatin] Already here at the airport, Akhsarbek Galazov, chairman of the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet, and Ruslan Aushev, president of the Ingush Republic, made it clear, however, that along with economic issues, the political situation in this region will also be discussed.

[Begin recording] [Galazov] The Ingush Republic has been set up. I for one believe that the people who prepared the law on setting up the Ingush Republic failed to consider its ramifications. First of all, the borders of the Ingush Republic have not yet been defined.

[Aushev] The conflict which took place here in October and November has been mothballed. Hundreds of people were killed and hundreds are still missing. The problem itself is not being solved. [end recording]

[Solomatin] The situation in the zone of Ossetian-Ingush confrontation is, indeed, extremely tense. It was frozen, as it were, at the time when the sides in the conflict were separated and the interim administration started work on this territory. But this cannot continue forever. It seems that this trip to North Caucasus is aimed at appraising the situation as precisely as possible and taking a decision. This, most probably, also explains the fact that, unexpectedly for many, Valentin Stepankov and Ramazan Abdulatipov, respectively Russia's procurator general and a leader of the Russian Supreme Soviet, have arrived here together with Chernomyrdin. The results of the referendum make both branches of power take prompt action.

In the morning the delegation worked in Nazran, capital of Ingushetia, and then held a meeting with the North Ossetian Supreme Soviet. Tomorrow the delegation will visit Nalchik, capital of Kabarda-Balkaria, and Makhachkala, capital of Dagestan.

Urges Peaceful Solution

LD1005204893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2007 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Vladikavkaz May 10 TASS—"The leadership of the Russian Federation must do its best to prevent the emergence in the Northern Caucasus of a conflict similar to the Ossetian-Ingush conflict of November 1992," Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said on Monday [10 May], addressing a meeting of the North-Ossetian leadership and public.

"Any fire started in the Northern Caucasus may encompass the whole of Russia," he added.

Chernomyrdin required resolutely that all those guilty of inciting the Ossetian-Ingush clashes be criminally liable. He emphasized, that all the problems connected with the settling of the conflict's consequences should be solved on a lawful basis.

"I am sure - the Ossetians and the Ingush can live in peace together," the prime minister said.

Chernomyrdin promised to give out from the federal budget additional means to restore normal life to the Northern Ossetia. These means, however, must "finance concrete programmes and projects".

North-Ossetian Parliament Speaker Askharbek Galazov told the meeting that upon the Russian delegation's arrival in Vladikavkaz on Monday afternoon, an improvised joint session of the presidiums of the Russian and North-Ossetian governments took place.

According to Galazov, the Ossetian party put 19 questions to the Russians, including the requirement for a credit to replenish the turnover of the enterprises, to maintain the peace-keeping forces in Northern Ossetia and to fund several industrial projects.

"Northern Ossetia has always been with Russia. Its people consider themselves to be a devoted and integral part of the Russian Federation," Galazov emphasized.

After a discussion on the speeches, the participants of the meeting indicated that the situation in the Northern Caucasus is unstable both economically and politically.

Among other things, several motions addressed to the Russian parliament were brought up. The latter was represented at the meeting by Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the House of Nationalities.

It was proposed to revise the legislative acts on rehabilitation of the repressed nations and on the establishment of the Ingush Republic, "to make accurate political decisions, proceeding from historical realities and present-day situation".

Several speakers pointed out Russia's decisive role in solving the problems, which emerged after the Ossetian-Ingush conflict in November 1992.

Late at night on Monday, Chernomyrdin and accompanying officials will leave Vladikavkaz for the city of Nalchik, where they will meet Kabardino-Balkarian leadership and community.

In the afternoon, the Russian delegation is expected to round off its trip over the Northern Caucasus by visiting Dagestan.

Calls For Reliance on Russian Technology

LD1105091693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Nalchik May 11 TASS—"In the course of its reforms Russia should rely not on the import of Western technologies and machinery, but on equipment produced by Russian enterprises, particularly defence factories that are now being switched over to civilian rails," Chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin told Kabardino-Balkarian leaders and activists here today.

The prime minister said that the West was trying to regear Russian industry to its technologies. Dwelling on the difficulties experienced by the Russian farm products processing industry, he said that such factories should rely on Russian-made machinery and technologies, produced by defence enterprises now undergoing conversion: "Our country is not a complete pauper... We possess technologies that rank among the best world models, including processing equipment."

Addressing the meeting, President of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic Valeriy Kokov said that the authorities and most of the republic's population backed the course of reforms conducted by the federal government and that Kabardino-Balkaria was "today among the few stable regions of southern Russia". The president asked the federal authorities to "render assistance in the implementation of measures to rehabilitate the Balkarian people".

Chernomyrdin will today attend a meeting of the North Caucasian Coordination Council, which is expected to discuss problems linked with the consequences of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. Continuing its tour of the northern Caucasus, Chernomyrdin's delegation will visit the Republic of Daghestan today afternoon.

Chairs N. Caucasian Council Meeting

LD1105120493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Nalchik May 11 TASS—Problems relating to the ethnopolitical situation in the northern Caucasus and additional measures to settle the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and to coordinate joint efforts to implement the economic reforms were discussed here today by the North Caucasian Coordination Council, chaired by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The meeting was attended by leaders of the Kabardino-Balkarian, Dagestan, Ingushetian and North Ossetian republics, as well as heads of the Krasnodar and Stavropol territories, and of Rostov region.

The discussions proceeded in camera. No journalists were allowed to attend them. An official communique released after the meeting says that its participants had "exchanged views on a wide range of problems, linked with the current ethnopolitical situation in the northern Caucasus, with regional specifics affecting transition to a market economy, with the need to coordinate efforts to implement the ongoing economic reforms. The Council devoted particular attention to the coordination of urgent measures to settle the Ingush-Ossetian conflict".

Summing up the results of the meeting, Chairman of the House of Nationalities of the Russian parliament Ramazan Abdulatipov told journalists, referring to Ingush-Ossetian relations, that President Boris Yeltsin should make more effective use of power, because the Ingush and Ossetian sides do not observe the agreements

they had earier achieved, in particular agreements on refugees and exchanges of hostages". [no opening quotation mark as received] He also said that it was necessary "to resolve more quickly problems linked with the formation of the Ingush Republic, to demarcate its borders".

The Russian delegation, which is rounding off its tour of the northern Caucasus, is expected to have several meetings in Makhachkala, the capital of Dagestan, in the evening.

Viktor Chernomyrdin is expected to return to Moscow tonight.

Shakhray Returns 'Urgently' to Moscow

PM1105143993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 93 First Edition p 1

[Report based on ITAR-TASS, INTERFAX, and RIA reports: "Sergey Shakhray Returns to Moscow Ahead of Schedule"]

[Text] Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, who is touring the North Caucasus, had a telephone conversation in Nalchik Tuesday with President Boris Yeltsin. The details of the conversation are not known, but an INTERFAX correspondent reports, citing unofficial sources, that in addition to discussing the state of affairs and the progress of the tour of the North Caucasus region the president came to an agreement with the premier on the question of the early return to Moscow of Russian Federation Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray.

In Nalchik S. Shakhray participated in a session of the North Caucasus Coordinating Council. After this he left the session and flew urgently to Moscow.

Ingushetia Supports Reform; Problems Must Be Solved

LD1005182193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Speaking today at a meeting with Ingushetia's leadership and elders, Ingush Republic President Ruslan Aushev said Ingushetia favors reforms.

Turning to the results of the 25 April referendum, in which Boris Yeltsin received support from less than 3 percent of those who voted in the republic, Ruslan Aushev noted that these results reflect the protest of people who are unable to return to their homeland. Ruslan Aushev put special emphasis on the need to solve the problems of Vladikavkaz's Prigorodnyy Rayon, which he described as being at present a support territory [opornaya territoriya] between North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

'Flexibility' of New Chechen Speaker Noted

PM1005105593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 May 93 p 1

[Alan Kasayev report: "Clash Between Branches: Confrontation Between Executive and Legislature Continues in Chechnya"]

[Text] Assessing the May Day events in Moscow, General Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, stated that the Russian Federation parliament intends to change the political situation in Russia in its favor. He said that agreement with the legislature in Moscow can and must be reached and alluded to the destabilizing cooperation between the Russian and Chechen parliaments. Meanwhile, the rallies being held in Groznyy in support of the president and parliament have given mixed receptions to the decisions of the Chechen Constitutional Court, which speak of a compromise between the two branches of power. The supporters of the Chechen president are clearly unhappy with the infringement of his rights. The supporters of parliament, however, are demanding more than the creation of a coalition government of popular accord and the accountability of President Dudayev to deputies.

As ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI has written before, 33-year-old Yusup Soslambekov, who has been elected speaker of the parliament in place of Khuseyn Akhmadov, has come to the fore in the political life of the Chechen Republic. Soslambekov enjoys greater authority than the former head of parliament and in the long term may be quite comparable with President Dudayev in his influence on public opinion. In addition, he is a diplomat recognized not only in Chechnya and is leader of the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples. Soslambekov's position is characterized by greater flexibility than anyone else in Chechnya. That was shown at the recent talks between the Confederation of Caucasus Peoples and representatives of the Cossacks of the Stavropol Region, where the long-awaited compromise was achieved largely through Soslambekov's efforts.

At the same time the new chairman of parliament is a supporter of an independent Chechen Republic, although he is ready to sign a reasonable treaty with Russia. In present conditions any mistake by President Dudayev will be used by Soslambekov and his supporters for their own ends. Soslambekov—a politician of the future in the Chechen establishment—is far less inclined to rhetoric and showy effect than Dudayev and the future development of the situation in Groznyy will probably be peaceful. The cost of bloodshed in Chechnya today is far too high. The opposing sides understand that.

Dudayev's Absence Cancels 'Conciliation' Meeting

LD1005184493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] A conciliation meeting between representatives of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's supporters and his opponents did not take place in Groznyy on 10 May as scheduled, due to the fact that the president himself failed to turn up.

Dudayev Believes Republic Situation 'Stabilizing'

LD1005192993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 May 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Information agencies report from Groznyy today that supporters of President Dudayev and the opposition continue to hold rallies in the town. Dudayev himself is, nonetheless, of the view that the situation in the republic is stabilizing. Apart from this, the Chechen leader expressed regret over the fact that the Russian-speaking population continues to leave the republic, and he noted that a government program has already been formulated to stop this process. In particular, the program provides for beneficial conditions for Russian officers who wish to serve in the Chechen army. Our Chechen correspondent has just told us over the telephone that he has received confirmation from the Republican Central Electoral Committee that the referendum scheduled in Chechnya for 5 June will take place and that preparations for it have already begun.

Luzhkov 'Out of Danger' After Heart Attack

LD1105110693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Antonov]

[Text] Moscow May 11 TASS—The state of health of Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov after a heart attack which he suffered on Monday [10 May] is normal. His life is out of danger, although he is still in hospital, mayoral press secretary Sergei Tsoi told ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

Karelian Official Comments on Constitution

MK0805131593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 May 93 p 3

[Interview with Viktor Stepanov, chairman of Karelian Supreme Soviet, by Radik Batyrshin: "There Must Be No Toying With the Constitution"—place and date not given]

[Text] [Batyrshin] On 29 April a new draft Constitution was presented that came to be considered the president's draft...

[Stepanov] The first problem that arises regarding this draft is the procedure for its presentation. At present Boris Yeltsin continues to be chairman of the Constitutional Commission of the Russian Federation. It was under him that we have worked for two and a half years on a draft constitution. The draft that came to be known as "Rumyantsev's" was officially presented to the components of the Federation, with Boris Yeltsin's signature on it, and was generally approved at the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies. Moreover, in mid-July 1992, Boris Yeltsin said at the Constitutional Commission meeting that he has started seriously working on the draft and would put the finishing touches on it. A session of the Karelian Supreme Soviet, as was done in all the other republics, discussed this draft and submitted our amendments. We have repeatedly requested that the center create a constitution jointly with us, because it is a fundamental law not for Yeltsin, Rumyantsev, or Shakhray, but the constitution for the Federation. This is why it is essential that representatives of the republics, krays, and oblasts take the most active part in the work on the draft. Our call, however, fell on deaf ears. Furthermore, the political declaration by the heads of republics at the Seventh Congress of People's Deputies last December, where we proposed that a law on the implementation of the Federation Treaty be drawn up, has been effectively ignored. Six months is a sufficient period for drawing up this law. Had we enacted it, we would have been able to carry on our work on the constitution. Suddenly, a new draft has sprung up. On 30 April, as soon as it was made public, I met, one after another, with Sergey Shakhray, one of the authors of the new draft, then with Constitutional Commission Chief Secretary Oleg Rumyantsev, and Ruslan Khasbulatov. I asked all of them one question: Does this mean that we are withdrawing the official draft constitution, or should the components of the Federation consider two drafts? They all agreed that the Constitutional Commission would be better advised to try to merge these two drafts in cooperation with the components of the Russian Federation. If two drafts are to exist along parallel lines, some components of the Federation will support the official draft, some will support the "presidential" one. Then we should merge them—because a constitution can not be a document that tears society apart. A constitution means first of all civil accord. This is not wishful thinking, this is a vital necessity. At present, however, the publication of the "presidential" draft has destabilized the process of making the constitution. What will happen next? Will the president submit his draft to the Constitutional Commission for consideration, and if not, will Boris Yeltsin remain chairman of the Constitutional Commission? This remains unclear.

Who will adopt a new constitution? It is proposed that a constitutional assembly or the Council of the Federation should do this... But however pleasant the name of this body may sound, it is not provided for in the current Constitution. Then, the Congress is supposed to relinquish to this body its powers with regard to adopting a new constitution. Or else, the question of who is to adopt the new fundamental law should be put to a referendum. There is no other legal way of doing it. Everything else is outside the current Constitution. But even a referendum is not the best solution. In the event it is not held, say, in Tatarstan, that republic will in effect be placed outside the Constitution and outside the Russian Federation. This is why we should clearly realize what an accelerated adoption of a new Russian constitution may bring about. Whether national accord is reached or the state will start falling apart? The referendum on 25 April demonstrated that the regional policies pursued by the federal authorities have failed. Ingushetia, Tatarstan, and Chechnya

are clear proof of this. Obviously, as long as relations at least with Chechnya and Tatarstan are lacking any regulatory framework, any referendum on a new constitution is out of the question.

[Batyrshin] You were speaking about the procedure for presenting and adopting a new Russian fundamental law. What is your attitude to the essence of the presidential draft?

[Stepanov] We should give credit to the authors of the draft—the full text of the Federation Treaty has been included in it and makes up its second part. However, neither the draft's first nor second section answers the question of what actually are oblasts and krays? Under the Federation Treaty, the republics are sovereign states within the Russian Federation that have all the powers of a state (legislative and executive) in their territory excepting those that have been transferred or assigned to the jurisdiction of the federal authorities of the Russian Federation. There is no such clarity regarding the krays and oblasts although this is the key issue for the development of the Russian state. Without answering this question it is impossible to define clearly the term "local self-government." Does it apply to the krays and oblasts or not? At present, the heads of the krays and oblasts lay claim to the rights equal to what the republics enjoy. I have been arguing for the krays and oblasts to have economic rights similar to those of the republics. As for political powers, this will take a more lengthy period.

[Batyrshin] Do you mean that at present it is impossible for a kray or an oblast to have the status of a sovereign state?

[Stepanov] Yes, I do. They are not sufficiently mature yet. But the most important thing that is still unclear is what kind of Federation components are they? The answer to this question is vital for Russian democracy...

The phrasing regarding the organization of the authority structure is also problematic. Today, the formation of the federation is under way. Matters related to the organization of the authority structure have to be taken out of the new constitution and enacted as a constitutional law. It will be as legally binding as the constitution, but in this event the fundamental law will no longer be a laughing-stock. All amendments will be made to the constitutional law on authority. During the transition period (five or more years) an efficient system of state authority will take shape. Then this section may be included into the Constitution. Or it may remain outside it. Among our Finnish neighbors, the status and the relationship between the president, parliament, and government are regulated by constitutional laws. As a matter of fact, a number of countries do not have constitutions at all.

The protocol to the Federation Treaty says that the republics, autonomous oblasts, and autonomous okrugs are to have 50 percent of the seats in one of the chambers. In this connection a question arises as to whether the krays and oblasts accept this? The draft also contains a number of other contradictions. So, the fourth article of the draft establishes the division of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, while the fifth article speaks about the unity of state authority of the Russian Federation on its territory. Isn't it absurd? Isn't it simpler to say that state authority in the Russian Federation is based on the system of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches? Although here, too, there is a contradiction. Furthermore, under the Federation Treaty there can be no unity of the executive branch. The reason is that the powers of the federal authorities, the federation components, and the subject of their joint jurisdiction have been clearly defined in the treaty. Article 66, however, prescribes its own structure of the executive branch to the republics. It says that the head of the republic's executive branch is to be elected by the population. And what if it is prime minister? Can you name a single country where the prime minister is elected? In addition, I do not remember us having transferred to the center the right to determine the structure of power in the republics. This matter is under our exclusive jurisdiction. This article includes the heads of the executive branches in the republics into a single system of the Russian executive branch. Yes, this can be done, but within the limits of those powers that have been delegated to the center. This system does not mean that we have to report to the center, which is what they are trying to sneak through by means of this article.

[Batyrshin] May I conclude from your words that the first part of the draft is at odds with the second one—the Federation Treaty?

[Stepanov] The principle "from top to bottom" has been retained here along the lines: general secretary—oblast party committee—rayon party committee—local party bureau. There cannot be a vertical structure of government in a federal state except for the exclusive jurisdiction of the center. Defense, borders, state-owned transport—this is where your vertical is; go on, do what you please. There are many such blunders in the draft. All this confirms that the new presidential draft constitution was drawn up without any underlying concept, because there is no concept of the implementation of the Federation Treaty at all. This means that things have come full circle—in order to get a normal constitution, a law on the implementation of the Federation Treaty has to be drawn up.

[Batyrshin] Then the adoption of the fundamental law will be delayed?

[Stepanov] Only a constitution that leads to national accord has the right to exist in Russia. Such a constitution can be created only with an active involvement of the Federation components. The fundamental law of a state cannot be written to suit a specific personality or the expediency of any political group, however good their intentions might be. The abundance of versions of the constitution reminds me of those who advocated the slogans like "each citizen will be given an apartment by the year 2000." We should not make haste, there is no

toying like this with the constitution. What we need is simply painstaking work, with utmost precision, on the constitution. This is too heavy a responsibility. A draft can be pushed through by exploiting public opinion, but we have to think about the consequences. The rules of conduct for our federation dwelling should be written jointly.

[Batyrshin] But the new constitution is Boris Yeltsin's main trump card...

[Stepanov] Where is the guarantee that the newly elected parliament will always be convenient for the president? I am confident that the president should rise above these squabbles and become the guarantor of national accord. In order to achieve this, the government should be made independent and assume full responsibility. He should be tolerant of all ideologies unless they undermine national security.

Arkhangelsk Ship-Building Town Closed to Outsiders

LD1105043193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0343 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Anufriyev]

[Text] Arkhangelsk, 11 May—The town where Russia's atomic-powered ships are built, Severodvinsk, on the White Sea, is being closed again. The inner council of Arkhangelsk Oblast has approved the creation of a "closed administrative-territorial entity," conditional on the government instituting a range of special privileges and "transparent borders" for the people of the oblast.

An entry-permit procedure was introduced for Severodvinsk in the early 1970s. During perestroyka the ban on free entry lapsed, although it was never officially revoked. The idea to again fence the town off from the outside world is supported not only by those in charge—the managers of the military shipyards and the local authorities, who will have an easier time of things now—but also by most of the townspeople.

Tuva Constitution Contains Right to Secession

LD1105100593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0918 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vasiliy Danilenko]

[Text] Kyzyl May 11 TASS—The 19th session of the Tuva Supreme Soviet has made amendments and supplements to its Constitution. Now it gives Tuva the right to self-determination and to secede from Russia.

True, it is pertinent to note that work is now under way on a new Constitution of the republic. It is expected to be discussed in detail by the parliament's June session. Time will show whether the amendment on the right of secession will remain in it. This right, if stipulated by the new Constitution, may soon be exploited by people opposed to the current Russian economic reforms.

It is worth noting that Tuva has polled the population on private landownership during the latest all-Russia referendum. Most of the population voted against such reforms, mapped out by radically- minded circles in the Russian Government. It should be borne in mind that Tuvinians account for the majority of the republic's population and that the Tuva People's Republic was an independent state before 1944. In light of this, the self-determination and secession amendments could mean two things: On the one hand, a new step towards genuine democracy, on the other—a grave threat, intended to destabilise the situation in Russia.

Vologda Power Struggle Extension of Federal Politics

PM1005141993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 May 93 First Edition p 2

[Report by Viktor Filippov: "Referendum Losers Seek Revenge in Provinces"]

[Text] Vologda—The Vologda Inner Soviet has hastily arranged a session of the oblast soviet for 14 May to examine the question of the legitimacy of Governor Nikolay Podgornov in the light of the new law on the procedure for appointing heads of administrations.

Nikolay Podgornov has been head of Vologda Oblast Administration since the fall of 1991. But the law on the procedure for appointing heads of administrations was adopted 1 April this year. And although laws are not retroactive, Oblast Soviet Chairman Gennadiy Khripel (a lawyer by training, incidentally) insisted that the session urgently examine the implementation of this law in relation to Nikolay Podgornov.

At the last session, at the end of March, Nikolay Podgornov reported on his activities last year and the tasks for the current year. And although by no means all deputies took kindly to the administration chief's active support for the market reforms, there was not even a hint of a lack of confidence in him. But events have occurred since then during which the oblast soviet chairman has become mightily resentful of Nikolay Podgornov.

On the eve of the referendum the highway patrol detained on the oblast border a minivan carrying 19 sacks of antipresidential leaflets, being ferried from the Supreme Soviet to the Vologda Oblast Soviet in the guise of official correspondence. It was detained with Nikolay Podgornov's knowledge. Gennadiy Khripel took it as a personal slight and tried to get the action involving the leaflets discussed at an Inner Soviet session. But the soviet members decided to wait for the results of the Prosecutor's Office examination of the legality of the actions of both sides in the dispute. Then, at the next Inner Soviet session, Gennadiy Khripel raised the question of convening a session to consider the administration chief's legitimacy.

According to Russian People's Deputy Ivan Avdonin, the dispute is much wider than the two Vologda leaders' personal relationship:

"The president's opponents had a bad referendum, so they have now contrived a political struggle in the provinces," he believes. "They are demanding the removal of the president's representatives and the removal of the chiefs of administrations. And the destabilization of the situation at any price, if only to confirm Khasbulatov's thesis that the referendum has split society."

The oblast soviet received a letter from Yuriy Voronin, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who is insisting on the immediate abolition of the post of presidential representative. The fate of the administration chief has also been placed in the people's deputies' hands: The Supreme Soviet authorized them to apply the new law to previously appointed chiefs of administrations.

"According to this law," Guriy Sudakov, the president's representative in Vologda Oblast, said, "a candidate administration chief is deemed to have been accepted if more than one-half of the people's deputies at the session have voted for him. Yet two-thirds of our oblast soviet [deputies] are former party and economic nomenklatura [members], who will readily go to the right, as soon as the command is given."

The events of recent weeks give grounds for believing that the command has already been given. Many rayon and city soviet leaders, who had not exactly been at pains to support the oblast administration chief's reformist actions before, openly opposed him in April. Moreover, they struck with the intention of demolishing Nikolay Podgornov's authority among the people.

The administration chief decreed that 8,000 roubles per month per child should be paid out of the budget to parents whose children do not attend kindergartens—so that mothers have the means to bring up their children at home. But the governor's resolution was blocked in the rayons, since the soviets handle the budget.

A group of deputies demanded that the Inner Soviet should not discuss the question of the administration chief's legitimacy at the session. They were supported by the oblast Entrepreneurs' Council and democratic parties and movements. They intend to picket the oblast soviet 14 May. So dyarchy is abroad in quiet Vologda, with its terrible dilemma: Who will win in the end?

Tatarstan Supports Yeltsin Draft Constitution

LD1005134493 Moscow Radio Mayak Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The draft constitution drawn up by the supporters of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has more points in its favor than the one proposed by Oleg Rumyantsev, Tatarstan presidential adviser Rafail Khakimov, said in a local press interview. But the question arises of who will establish the Basic Law which is so necessary to the country now.

In his opinion, seeking a point of support only among the subjects of the federation means embarking on open confrontation when setting up parallel structures of power.

As for questions relating to relations between Russia and Tatarstan, the republic has not signed the Federation Treaty, but is not doing anything against Russia: on the contrary, horizontal links are being strengthened. In the near future, relations between Tatarstan and Russia will be regulated by individual agreements, the presidental adviser said.

More Regional Reaction

LD1005181293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1754 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Moscow May 10 TASS—The draft constitution worked out by supporters of President Boris Yeltsin has an advantage over the one proposed by Oleg Rumyantsev, Rafael Khakimov, adviser to the president of Tatarstan, said in an interview published in the local press. But who will adopt the fundamental law? According to Khakimov, to look for supports in the subjects of the federation is to face open confrontation by setting up parallel structures of power.

As regards interrelations between Russia and Tatarstan, Tatarstan has not signed a federal treaty, but it has not been doing anything against Russia. On the contrary, horizontal ties are being strengthened. In the near future interrelations between Tatarstan and Russia will be regulated by agreements, the presidential adviser said. Vyacheslav Scherbakov, deputy mayor of St. Petersburg, singled out the regional policy section of the president's draft constitution as its most vulnerable part.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS he noted that the new constitution of Russia should not be adopted without weighing the pros and cons of an approach to the problem of subjects of the federation. Speaking of the concept of the regional policy, he emphasised that there is a "strategical error" in it.

Scherbakov reminded that in the nationwide April 25 referendum residents of St. Petersburg had "cast their votes to give St. Petersburg the status of a republic." According to the deputy mayor, St. Petersburg cannot be compared with any other republic within the Russian Federation on the basis of its production, intellectual and other potentials. The budget of the city exceeds budgets of Belarus and three Baltic countries taken together. But, for example, in the draft constitution the powers of such a large metropolis has been put even below the rights of a republic like Karelia, he said.

The deputy mayor said that he is preparing to take part in the conference of representatives of eleven subjects of the Russian Federation's north-western region where the

draft constitution will be finalized from the point of view of the regional policy. This conference is to be held in Murmansk on May 12 under the leadership of the deputy mayor and Sergey Shakhray, one of the co-authors of the president's draft constitution.

Residents of the city of Nizhnyy Novgorod have been acquainting themselves with the president's draft constitution.

In an opinion poll conducted in the Volg-Vyatskiy region residents were asked to answer the question: "What do you think, the new constitution should give the president more powers than to legislative bodies, or more powers to legislative bodies than to the president, or the president and legislative bodies should have equal powers?"

Thirty-seven per cent of the respondents favoured the idea of the president being given more powers. For equal authority to both—32 per cent people said "yes". Eleven per cent did not give any answer.

Alleged Referendum Fraud in Moscow Catalogued

PM0705124393 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 May 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The People Keep Quiet and the Figures Triumph. Doubt Cast on Referendum in Moscow Region"]

[Text] On behalf of the public committee for the Defense of the Russian Federation Constitution and of the constitutional system, a group of Russian people's deputies has made a request to V. Kazakov, chairman of the Central Commission for the All-Russian Referendum, that he declare null and void the referendum results for Moscow and the Moscow Oblast owing to fraud and violation of current Russian legislation in the course of the referendum and during the vote counting.

In the regions in question, stipulations made in the Constitution for citizens to be equal and have freedom of choice (Article 93), for there to be secret voting, and for it to be impermissible for control to be exercised over voters expressing their will (Articles 95 and 97) were blatantly violated. For example the executive branch of power, including presidential structures, blatantly interfered in the process of preparing for the voting. At the government level, under the pretext of ensuring law and order, special committees and commissions for conducting the referendum were set up and these were most active in the Moscow region. V. Shumeyko, first deputy chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers, issued a special directive on 12 April obliging the ministries, state committees, and departments by way of an order to ensure that blue- and white-collar workers would vote. It brought pressure to bear on voters to express their will.

In violation of Article 5 of the Law on the Referendum, political parties, movements, and public organizations of Moscow's and Moscow Oblast's opposition bloc were not given an equal right to campaign unhindered using state radio and television. These organs of the mass media were, with a minor exception, put at the disposal of representatives of the president's entourage and his supporters from the so-called democratic movement.

On the eve of the referendum from 22 to 24 April only programs supporting B. Yeltsin were screened. On two occasions he himself spoke, and so did Chairman of the Council of Ministers V. Chernomyrdin, his deputy V. Shumeyko, S. Shakhray, A. Chubays, Chief of the Presidential Staff S. Filatov, and others. Campaigning for the president was conducted on the Moscow television and radio channels even on the day of the poll in spite of there being a ban on this (Article 5 of the Law on the Referendum).

In all places lists of citizens eligible to participate in the referendum were, in violation of Article 27 of the Law on the Referendum, compiled without a preliminary check and were not posted for general consultation in the premises of the precinct electoral commissions. The voting was on the whole conducted using details from previous elections which were out of date and using lists of citizens compiled for the issue of privatization checks. A large number of dead people figured in the lists.

The stipulation made by Article 28 of the Law on the Referendum on confirming the ballot papers' form and text no later than 30 days before the beginning of the referendum and supplying the ballot papers to district commissions no later than 15 days in advance was not observed. Despite the fact that several different questions were being put to referendum [pri vynesenii na referndum proyektov razlichnykh resheniy], the ballot papers were printed on paper of a single color.

During the voting quite a few incidents of ballot stuffing, campaigning for the president on 25 April, voting by people not listed as eligible to vote including those not in possession of a document indiccating whther or not they had been struck from the register [v. tom chisle bez otkreputelnykh talonov], as well as voting on behalf of persons who had not gone to the polling places were recorded at Moscow polling places. People were permitted to vote twice. During the count, there were instances of ballot papers which had not gone through the proper balloting process being slipped in with with the general mass of ballot papers removed from the ballot boxes. Before the count, unused ballot papers were not always canceled and individual records signalling this were not prepared.

In violation of Article 33 of the Law on the Referendum, a separate count of ballot papers from portable ballot boxes was not made. Their quantity was not checked

against the quantity of written applications for a home vote. In a number of polling places representatives of labor collectives, public movements, and parties were illegally denied the opportunity of carrying out a check on whether the legislation on the referendum was being observed.

The public committee and the people's deputies are in possession of documents, and statements from citizens which confirm these and other violations of Russian legislation on the referendum, and are prepared to present them to the Central Commission.

Extension of Local Administrations' Powers Planned

LD0805044693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The Russian Government is planning to extend the powers of kray and oblast administrations. According to information from ITAR-TASS, a whole package of documents is in the process of being completed. The documents define the status of representatives of the federal bodies of power in the regions and simultaneously give the regional authorities new powers.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Receives U.S. Special Envoy

LD1105105493 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1952 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] A delegation, headed by Strobe Talbott, ambassador at large of the U.S. State Department, has paid a working visit to Ukraine's capital. Leonid Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, received the delegation on 10 May. Addressing the guests, he observed that he was pleased to meet the delegation from the new U.S. Administration, and pleased that it is possible to jointly discuss relations between Ukraine and the United States and also to touch upon general problems of the world, which also interest our two states.

Ambassador Strobe Talbott handed over a letter from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Leonid Kravchuk, which emphasizes President Clinton's intention to build strong and broad relations with Ukraine.

A businesslike and trustful conversation took place between President Leonid Kravchuk and members of the delegation, which proceeded without the press. The leader of the delegation called the meeting with Leonid Kravchuk, during which a broad range of important issues was discussed, useful and sincere.

The delegation also had a conversation with Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the standing commission of the Supreme Council for Foreign Affairs, Anatoliy Zlenko, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kostyantyn Morozov, Minister of Defense, and other officials.

A news conference for Ukrainian and foreign journalists was arranged at the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the same day. Replying to qwuestions, Strobe Talbott emphasised that the United States hopes that Ukraine will ratify the START I Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and also the Lisbon Protocol, but it does not intend to continue to emphasize attention only on issues concerning nuclear weapons. It will pay more attention to cooperation with Ukraine in other spheres, above all in the economy. It is important, the ambassador observed, that we succeeded in agreeing with our Ukrainian counterparts on a whole range of issues concerning our relations. And so, he said, we are returning to Washington with a clearer program for our actions, directed at extending and deepening our cooperation with Ukraine.

Durdynets Receives Envoy

LD1005185193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Today, 10 May, Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, received a delegation of U.S. representatives headed by Strobe Talbott, the U.S. President's special envoy and ambassador-at-large.

A wide range of issues concerning collaboration between the United States and Ukraine was defined during the discussion. The two sides exchanged opinions on problems of strengthening peace and security, prospects for Ukraine's practical implementation of its declared nonnuclear status and joint participation in this by the United States and other interested states.

Issues the Ukrainian Parliament will examine in the near future and the practical preparations for the examination of the ratification of the START I Treaty by our state's Supreme Council were also discussed.

The guests displayed an interest in the progress and future of economic reforms in Ukraine. The U.S. side particularly stressed that Ukraine is exceptionally important for the United States and that the United States takes great interest in it. Besides this, our guests noted our state's constructive role in supporting peace in Europe and in the world. They acknowledged that Ukraine's foreign political policy is realistic and finds understanding in the world community.

The U.S. President's special envoy expressed the hope that this dialogue will play a role in broadening mutually beneficial cooperation between the United States and Ukraine, particularly with regard to the issues that were raised.

Ramon Popadiuk, U.S. ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine, took part in the discussion.

Plyushch's Visit to Iran To Conclude Talks

AU1005170893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 May 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iranian Oil in Exchange for Our Coal"]

[Text] Iran and Ukraine signed several memorandums on mutual understanding that deal with bilateral cooperation in the economy and industry. As reported by the IRNA agency, these documents that were signed by Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Yuliy Ioffe and Hoseyn Mahlujchi, minister of mining and metallurgical industry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, envisage the development of ties in geology, exploration and extraction of mineral deposits, exchange of scientific and technological information, and technological training of personnel. Agreements were also reached in the spheres of transport and tourism.

Ukraine's vice premier also held negotiations with Iranian ministers of foreign affairs, industry, heavy industry, oil, and power engineering. In particular, in the course of the meeting held with Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, an intention was voiced to conclude an agreement on expanding ties in the oil and gas industry. It was earlier reported that Iran is ready to buy Ukrainian coal.

It is expected that negotiations on a number of questions that interest both sides will be concluded in the course of Ivan Plyushch's visit to Iran, which begins on 10 May.

Plyushch on Ties With Iran, Nuclear Disarmament

LD0805185293 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Moscow, May 8, IRNA—Chairman of the Parliament of Ukraine Ivan Plyushch said here Friday [7 May] that despite the relatively short period since the establishment of relations between Tehran and Kiev the two countries have taken long strides for furthering their relations.

The laying of a gas trunkline from Iran to Ukraine and to the rest of Europe, he said, is one major area of cooperation between the two countries which is already showing its fruits.

Last year, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk visited Tehran and entered into several agreements with Iran. Another area of the cooperation between the two countries is the sale to Ukraine of Iran's oil.

He said Iran and Ukraine cooperate in the area of mines and metals, auto industries, ship-building, and surface and air transportation.

The chairman of the Ukrainian Parliament said that Iran has its own special status in the world because of its geopolitical role and also because of its economic potential, and also plays a big role for the regional security.

He appreciated Iran's efforts for developing relations with the now independent republics of Central Asia which, he said, has been done in keeping with the principles of mutual respect.

The Ukrainian said Kiev is committed to nuclear disarmament, but he noted that in Ukraine there are 176 platforms for launching strategic missiles which, he said, has turned into a big problem for the Ukrianians today, since much of the government spending should go to the maintenance of the missile system in that republic.

He indicated that Ukraine is not capable of launching any missile from any of those platforms because the special actuators that operate those missiles are with the Russians. Therefore, he said, despite what goes in the propaganda Ukraine is not now a nuclear power.

He said the Ukrainian Parliament would seriously consider the 'START-1' Treaty on condition that nuclear armaments are destroyed with the financial help of the developing countries that the security of Ukraine is guaranteed.

The Ukrainin official is to arrive in Tehran for an official four-day visit Monday.

Deputy Minister Discusses Trade With Indian Envoy

LD1005195193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Viktor Hladush, Ukraine's deputy minister of foreign economic relations, met with Sudhir Tukaram Devare, Indian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Ukraine. During the conversation, the deputy minister expressed satisfaction with the development of foreign economic links between Ukraine and India. For his part, the ambassador welcomed the two countries' aspirations toward deepening bilateral collaboration and noted that the present relations between India and Ukraine will bring prosperity and happiness to both peoples.

National Affairs

Cabinet Adopts Decisions on Ending Economic Crisis

LD1105095893 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1952 GMT 10 May 93

[Report by correspondent Valentyn Vernodubenko]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The economic situation in the country remains extremely complex, notes the resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "on the results of socioeconomic development and implementation of Ukraine's state budget for the first quarter of 1993," which was adopted at a regular government session, which took place on 10 May under the chairmanship of [Prime Minister] Leonid Kuchma. The deepening of the crisis continues. It encompasses nearly all spheres of the economy, the document goes on to say. Economic reform is being put into action with great difficulty.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, while discharging its additional powers temporarily delegated to it by the Supreme Council, has adopted more than 60 decrees, which have become the foundation of the normative-legal base for leading the country out of crisis. The measures implemented have made it possible to slow down the rate of decline of industrial production in the current year. It stands at 5.2 percent in the first quarter, against 15.3 percent in the first quarter of last year. The work of basic branches of industry has stabilized somewhat. Additional measures, directed at the country ending the crisis situation, have been outlined in the resolution.

A number of other documents were also discussed and adopted at the session: on the draft decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding introducing changes to the law of Ukraine "on limiting monopolism and not allowing unscrupulous competition in entrepreneurial activity," on draft laws of Ukraine "on introducing changes to Article 39 of the Constitution (the fundamental law of Ukraine)," and "on introducing changes to

the code of labor laws of Ukraine in connection with the institution of a 40-hour working week," and a decree on regulating management of property, which ensures the activity of bodies of legislative and executive power.

Information from the National Bank of Ukraine on the state of monetary circulation and mutual accounts, which was given by Viktor Yushchenko, chairman of the bank's board, was taken into consideration.

Rukh Calls For Special Powers for Kravchuk

LD1005150693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] A call for Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to be granted extraordinary powers has been made at the oblast conference of the Ukrainian People's Movement [Rukh] in Lvov. This organization was set up exactly a year ago as an alternative to the old Rukh, which its opponents believed had ceased to be a popular movement and had turned into a run-of-the-mill opposition party.

Talking to an RIA correspondent, Larisa Skorik, a cochairman of the new Rukh, declared that only strong, authoritarian power could extricate Ukraine from its deep political and economic crisis. She thinks it is necessary for all democratic forces to rally round the presidency, which she sees as the most effective authority.

Belarus

Defense Ministry Experts Inspect Military Units

WS1105112593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Special commissions of the Defense Ministry are visiting military units. Their aim is to assess how personnel training was carried out over the winter training period. The point is not only to disclose the shortcomings in the training of soldiers, but also to help commanders eliminate the shortcomings.

Kozlov Appointed Deputy Secretary for CIS Affairs

WS0705123693 Minsk BELINFORM in Russian 1031 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] A BELINFORM correspondent has been told at the State Secretariat for CIS Affairs, that People's Deputy Gennadiy Kozlov has been appointed deputy state secretary. Prior to this appointment, Kozlov was first deputy chief of the Department of Public Order and Defense at the Belarusian Council of Ministers. He is also known as the executive coordinator of the "Belarus" deputies association—the driving force at the Belarusian legislature.

Friendship, Cooperation Treaty Signed With Romania

LD0705213793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2039 GMT 7 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Dyakov]

[Text] Bucharest May 7 TASS—Belarusian parliament chairman Stanslav Shushkevich's two-day official visit to Bucharest was capped today with the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Belarus. This document defines the principles of interaction between the two countries and is aimed at tapping their potentials for boosting political, economic and cultural contacts.

The delegation headed by Shushkevich, which included government officials and parliament members, held talks with Romanian President Ion Iliescu, Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu and met leaders of the Senate and House of Deputies.

"Romania sprang many pleasant surprises on us and we became convinced that the strengthening of ties will enable our countries to overcome more rapidly the existing similar problems and expedite movement towards a market economy," Shushkevich told ITAR-TASS.

In his view, particular emphasis should be put in the period to come on the development of economic contacts between the two states as the present volumes of reciprocal trade no longer suit either side. Both Romania and Belarus do not have hard currency but have goods which both countries need. "We agreed to clear obstacles on this path and I hope that we will succeed in these efforts," Shushkevich said.

"The Romanian side highly appreciates the results of this visit and is fully determined to deepen mutually beneficial contacts between the two countries," Iliescu noted in his speech to journalists following the signing of the document.

In the presence of the heads of state, representatives of the Romanian and Belarusian governments signed a consular agreement and an agreement on cooperation in the field of culture, health, sport and tourism.

Hungarian State Secretary Signs Treaty Draft on Cooperation

WS1105111793 Minsk RID in Russian 0948 GMT 11 May 93

[Text] Andras Kelemen, secretary of state at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, has paid a one-day visit to Belarus.

He met Supreme Soviet Chairman Shushkevich. The officials exchanged views on the development of bilateral relations between the two states. Andras Kelemen also held negotiations with Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Ostapenko, which resulted in signing a protocol on consultations between the Hungarian and the Belarusian Foreign Ministries. A draft treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between the two states was also signed. In the afternoon, Andras Kelemen met M. Marinich, deputy chairman of the Foreign Economic Relations Committee and discussed draft agreements on mutual protection of investments. A draft agreement on avoiding double taxation is expected to be discussed soon.

Kebich, Government Delegation Leave for UAE, India

LD1005150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1334 GMT 10 May 93

[By BELINFORM-TASS correspondent Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk May 10 TASS—A Belarus Government delegation, led by Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, left today for an official visit to the United Arab Emirates and India. This is the first official visit of one of the leaders of the young Belarus republic to these countries.

The government delegation includes Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko, Chairman of the State Foreign Economic Relations Committee Vladimir Radkevich and other officials.

Shushkevich Comments on Kyrgyzstan Currency

LD1005213093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2006 GMT 10 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet, believes that the introduction by Kyrgyzstan of its own currency has become one of the reasons for changing the time of the CIS summit. As I see it, Shushkevich told a RIA correspondent, this is a violation of the agreements adopted within the framework of the Commonwealth and signed by Kyrgyzstan.

Kyrgyzstan is not the first CIS member to leave the ruble zone, but it is the first state within the former Soviet Central Asia to introduce its own currency.

Meanwhile, Akayev, president of Kyrgyzstan, is getting ready to go to the United States on 15 May. Perhaps, this is one of the reasons for moving the Moscow meeting to 14 May.

Shushkevich Meets Town Leaders on Self-Administration

LD1005200993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 May 93

[By correspondent Aleksey Zhuk from Minsk; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] In Belarus today they were thinking about how to go on living. Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich met with the mayors of towns and cities.

[Zhuk] Minsk and more than 20 large towns in Belarus have set up a non-governmental social and economic association. This has been undertaken in order to resolve in the best way the issues of local self-administration that are coming to a head. Stanislav Shushkevich held this meeting with the chairmen of local soviets, rather like the chairman of the constitutional commission of the republic. The draft new constitution is being submitted to the current session of the Belarus parliament; one section of the draft concerns local self-administration. What will the heads of towns be called in the future—chairman of the soviet, mayor, or speaker? This is to be resolved by the Supreme Soviet. But they ought to be elected by the vote of the whole people, within the framework of the local territory, naturally.

Then Stanislav Shushkevich described the economic situation as extremely tense. In the first quarter the volume of production decreased by 16 percent. The CIS agreement on monetary policy is not being carried out, and this is aggravating inflation and increasing taxation among the partners of the Commonwealth countries. The chairman of the Supreme Soviet spoke out in favor of strengthening a single economic space of the CIS countries. [Video shows street scenes, Shushkevich at meeting.]

Moldova

Leaders Pledge To Seek Peaceful End to Dniester Conflict

LD1005204593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2005 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau May 10 TASS—The leadership of Moldova and leaders of the Dniester region have announced today that they intend to continue the search of a solution to the left bank areas of the republic through peaceful means. This was stated in a communique issued after a meeting held in Tiraspol area today in which President Mircea Snegur, Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli of Moldova and Dniester region leaders Igor Smirnov, Grigoriy Marakutsas and Aleksandr Karaman took part.

The concluding document of the meeting emphasised that questions of state and territorial set up of Moldova will form the basis of finding a solution to the conflict. But at the same time a solution to the vital problem of the economy and the restoration of traditional economic ties brook no delay. That is why experts of both delegations have already discussed and prepared a number of decisions involving transport, financial and banking system and statistics bodies for signing.

The communique underscores that the interested sides will provide the solution to the conflict a stable and irreversible character, exclude power tactics, refrain from actions to destabilize the situation and will not create obstructions in efforts to establish peace.

Rule Out Use of 'Military Methods'

AU1005200993 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 10 May 93

[Calin Petrescu dispatch from Chisinau]

[Text] In an effort to continue the political dialogue based on the current tendency and readiness of the sides to find a political settlement to the crisis in the eastern rayons of the Republic of Moldova, today President Mircea Snegur, Parliament Chairman Petru Lucinschi, and Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli have met near Tiraspol with the leaders of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic, Igor Smirnov, Grigore Maracuta, and Alexandru Caraman. Representatives of certain ministries, departments, and companies also attended the meeting.

During the meeting it was pointed out that the issue of the territorial structure of the Republic of Moldova is essential for the definitive settlement of the conflict. The sides eventually reached an agreement that current disputed issues are to be solved during future meetings, as well as by the sessions of the commissions specially set up for that purpose. The parties also agreed upon the main directions along which they are to continue their political dialogue.

The parties stressed the need for a rapid solution to their economic problems and to re-establish their traditional economic ties, which, despite the current dispute, cannot be delayed as it is of vital interest to the whole population.

The group of experts for economic issues discussed and elaborated methods to solve various problems related to transportation, bilateral financial and banking relations, and the functioning of the statistical bodies. They also prepared the necessary protocols to be signed.

Aiming to lend the current dialogue stability and an irreversible character, the participants in today's meeting expressed their readiness to exclude military methods and threats of force while trying to unravel tensions and to refrain from actions that might lead to the destabilization of the situation in the conflict zone and thus prevent the fulfillment of the current pacifying efforts.

Snegur Calls Sociopolitical Situation 'Satisfactory'

LD1105043993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2330 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] In an interview for the ZEMLYA I LYUDI [Land and People] newspaper, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur described the sociopolitical situation in the republic as satisfactory compared to a year ago when blood was spilled on the left bank of the Dniester. But in order to finally turn the tide toward stabilizing the situation in the Dniester region, the president added, the parliament should examine the legal status of these regions in the near future. Chisinau's official authorities are maintaining direct dialogue with the Tiraspol leaders and the Moldovan president is maintaining contact with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is proceeding from the principle of Moldova's indivisibility and the need to solve the conflict by peaceful means. The talks between experts from the four sides—Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, and Russia—are expected to be resumed. Only a sensible compromise acceptable to both sides will bring calm in the Dniester region. The republic's indigenous population, however, will never agree to the absurd idea of the federalization of Moldova, Mircea Snegur stressed. According to him, a special legal status envisaging a high level of local self- administration and guarantees to the effect that if the republic changes its political course, the region's population will have the right to decide its own future will be offered to the population of the Dniester region.

14th Army Chief Views Dniester's Economic Stability

AU1005121493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 8/5/1993—During an interview published today in the newspaper from Tiraspol DNESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA, General Alexander Lebed communicated that during his last visit in Moscow to the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation he discussed "with the senior officers" a problem which now constitutes a military state secret. In addition, Lebed reported that in Moscow he had negotiated on the problems of economical stability in the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, especially questions concerning economic relations between Russian enterprises and Dniester plants. The Commander of the 14th Army reiterated his allegations against leaders of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic mentioning that he is ready for compromises in the event they "will not demonstrate understanding". Replying to the question concerning the possibility of recognizing the Russian Federation of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, which Igor Smirnov discussed during the meeting on the 1st of May in Tiraspol under the red flags of the former USSR, Lebed joked that in order to convince Smirnov he should have at his left side Alknis and at his right side Umalatova. "In the world in general, diplomats first of all achieve their aim and then put away their masks but in Dniester they first of all show their faces and only then discuss aims", concluded Lebed.

Snegur Stresses Need To Preserve Eastern Market

AU1005113393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 8/5/1993—"We would be considered as being incompetent people if we renounced the Eastern market where absolutely all firms abroad are directed, including Romania," stated President Mircea Snegur in an interview offered to the newspaper EARTH AND PEOPLE. Snegur clarified that it is important what Moldova will present on the Eastern market. "If we manage to modernise in the short-term the processing industry and produce competitive production then we have the chance to maintain markets in Russia, Kazakhstan, etc.," stated the President of Moldova and added that this could only be achieved through the creation of joint ventures, obtaining some credits for re-equipping industry with modern technology and "using technicians from laboratories from the republic who have the necessary preparation but are timid enough". Mircea Snegur pleaded for advantageous collaboration with all countries on a semilateral and bilateral basis and declared that "we are even ready to sign an economic union with the CIS states in which other countries can join."

Prime Minister Discusses Economic Privatization

AU1005121693 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1920 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 8/5/1993—During the first half of this year we succeeded in ending the decrease in volume of production and efficiency of work, and as predicted the economic situation in Moldova is on the way to stabilization, declared Andrei Sangheli, the Prime-Minister of Moldova in the course of a press conference organized yesterday. In some branches of

economy the level of productivity is even greater than during last year but the government will attempt to do its best to increase this indicator during the second part of this year and to achieve planned goals, mentioned Sangheli. While being questioned on the way decisions by the government were being fulfilled and the personal responsibility of the decision makers who are engaged in the process of illegal privatization, the prime-minister stated that a special Government Commission had been established as a response to this activity, "but this is confronting many problems arising from the fact that illegal privatization had begun long before and it is very difficult to stop water rushing from a basin if the taps are left on".

Calls For CIS Economic Alliance

LD0705193793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 7 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau May 7 TASS—Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli has called for the creation of an economic alliance of states, whose basis was laid down at the recent meeting of CIS state heads in Minsk.

He told a news conference here today "some Commonwealth states put political conditions when solving economic issues". In his words, Moldova will call for economic cooperation without political or military aspects.

The successful sowing campaign in Moldova gives hopes for the improvement of the Moldovan economy before the end of this year, said Sangeli. The government hopes to receive almost 600,000 tonnes of grain this year. But the republic plans to purchase another 350,000 tonnes abroad with foreign credits.

The premier expressed the hope for new foreign investors and stressed the main condition of it is the stabilization of Moldovan situation and final settlement of the Dniester conflict. The government is working to achieve this, and many economic relations with the Dniester region, which have been broken, are now restored.

Speaking of the introduction of a national currency, Sangheli noted the Moldovan leadership has economic and not political goals in this respect. The national currency will be introduced only when the Moldovan leadership is sure of this step's efficiency, he said.

Foreign Trade Minister Lists Economic Priorities

AU1005105293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1845 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 7/5/1993—In the course of a working visit in Kuwait we obtained an agreement from the government of the master-country concerning financing the development of commercial and packaging branches of the can and wine industries as well as tourism in Moldova which require great investments, declared Andrei Cheptine, the Minister of External Economic Relations in an interview published in the debut issue of the newspaper "NOROC" ["LUCK"] which is edited in Russian, Romanian and English. In order to obtain financial resources Chisinau continues to create respective programmes, indicates the interview. The first credit from the European Bank of Development & Reconstruction will be used for renovating and reequipping Chisinau Glass Fabrics, said in addition Andrei Cheptine, claiming this choice by the Ministry of External Economic Relations was influenced by the need to offer advantages to those branches which possesses with old traditions who have a potential for producing activity which can induce positive results in the near future. In the opinion of the Ministry, the packaging, commercial and can industry as well as wine production are the sectors which will be favoured.

Gagauz President Reiterates Right to 'Self-Determination'

AU1005112993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1845 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 7/5/1993—"The exclusive right of the Gagauzian people to self-determination in the event the political status of Moldova changes is the principal thesis of the document that is proposed for adoption by the VII Congress of the Deputies at all levels from Gagauzia which will begin on May the 8th in Ceadir-Lunga,, declared Mihail Kendighelean, the president of the Supreme Soviet of the self-proclaimed Gagauz Republic, to a BASA correspondent. "If Chisinau neglects this legitimate right of the Gagauzian people, clarified in addition Kendighelean, we will return to the initial variant of the project which provides for the creation of an independent Gagauz Republic with all state structures in power." In the opinion of the leader from Comrat, Gagauzians made numerous compromises, the last one being the exclusion from the project of the law regarding the self-determination of regions densely populated by Gagauzians of the term "administrative and national autonomy." We do not understand why the leadership of the Republic of Moldova opposes our proposal after it has repeatedly declared that Moldova is not going to unify with Romania," concluded Kendighelean.

Turkmenistan

Military Cooperation With Russia Highlighted

PM1005095593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 May 93 p 2

[Article by Lieutenant General V. Zhurbenko, deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, under the rubric "Military Organizational Development: View of the Problem": "Location of Duty Assignment—Turkmenistan"]

[Text] In the recent past, in respect of questions of ensuring its security, Turkmenistan, like the Russian Federation, was in favor of preserving the single defense space of the former USSR and CIS Joint Armed Forces. Therefore the republic's leadership did not take any practical steps to create a separate army. However, the fact that the majority of CIS republics, including the Russian Federation, have placed force groupings and military installations of the Soviet Army under their jurisdiction and created national Armed Forces on their basis, has led to a change in Turkmenistan's policy in defense questions and military organizational development.

This article deals with the special features of the organizational development of Turkmenistan's national Armed Forces.

From KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's files. As of 27 October 1991, Turkmenistan has been an autonomous, sovereign state; as of January 1992, it has been a member of the CIS. Its territory (488,000 square km) occupies practically the entire flatlands of the southern part of the former USSR along the border with Iran (1,000 km) and Afghanistan (750 km), which is the reason for its strategically important position throughout the Central Asian area. Its natural resources—petroleum, gas, and cotton—constitute strategic raw materials and promise favorable prospects.

Under the Treaty on Joint Measures in Connection With the Creation of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces on the basis of military force elements and military installations of the former Soviet Army located in the republic, its national Armed Forces have been created, while preserving groupings of Russian Federation Air Defense and Air Force troops on the territory of Turkmenistan. What does this mean? First and foremost the joint settlement, together with Russia, of questions relating to their subordination, financing, material and technical supply... Quite frankly, this is a fairly unusual approach. Why did the sides adopt this particular decision? There are reasons for this.

First of all, ensuring security in the south against infiltration by Islamic fundamentalism is a task of prime importance both to Russia and to Turkmenistan. This engenders the need to pool the efforts of the two fraternal states.

Second, it was caused by the need to elaborate legislative acts in Turkmenistan on military organizational development and armed forces organizational development.

Third, maintaining the force grouping which is stationed on the territory of Turkmenistan, and which significantly exceeds its defense sufficiency, presented certain difficulties for the young republic.

Fourth, there was the lack of the necessary number of trained national cadres in Turkmenistan with which to create their own Armed Forces. Thus, in mid-1992, within the force grouping on the territory of Turkmenistan, for example, around 95 percent of the officers performing service were representatives of Slavic nationalities or originally came from other CIS republics.

Thus, the republic needed a certain transitional period for the organizational development of its own Armed Forces, during which a Ministry of Defense has to be formed, military policy elaborated, the basic provisions of military doctrine adopted, and legislative acts on defense questions and the social and legal protection of servicemen have to be drawn up and implemented... That is why in July 1992 the sides agreed that a joint Russian-Turkmenistan command, subordinate to the presidents of Russia and Turkmenistan, would effect the command and control of the force groupings and comprehensive backup for them in the transitional period. But questions of military-political activity, and the elaboration of normative-legislative acts, and programs and plans for the organizational development of the Armed Forces and their use will come within the competence of the Turkmenistan Ministry of Defense.

Admittedly, in practice, implementing this has turned out to be not so simple. Of over 300 military force elements stationed on Turkmenistan's territory, around 200 needed to be placed within its national Armed Forces, leaving over 70 under the Russian Federation's jurisdiction. The rest had to be disbanded or withdrawn to Russian territory. (The f rce composition of the Caspian flotilla for basing within the borders of Turkmenistan's maritime area was established in a separate agreement). In all, the command and control of an army corps, two combined-arms large units, some large units and units of combat arms and special forces of corps and front-line complements, Air Defense, Air Force, and army aviation units, technical and rear-services support large units and units, and construction and quarters-maintenance units... were handed over for the creation of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces. As well as practically all armaments, military hardware, ammunition, and other movable property and real estate.

How was the problem of manning the national Armed Forces of Turkmenistan and Russian Federation military formations solved? The treaty stipulates that citizens of Russia performing military service in the command and control organs, large units, units, and other force elements on the territory of Turkmenistan who do not declare their adoption of Turkmenistan citizenship

according to the prescribed procedure, are, from the day the present treaty comes into force (following ratification by the sides' parliaments and the exchange of instruments of ratification), considered to be servicemen of the Russian Federation Armed Forces who are performing military service in the Turkmenistan Armed Forces until the end of the transitional period. At the same time, Turkmenistan will grant them the same political, economic, social, civil, and other universally recognized rights and freedoms as the local population.

All privileges established for Russian Federation servicemen, including rates of pay with the corresponding extras for performing service in the severe climatic conditions of Central Asia, have been extended in order to protect the social rights of servicemen in the Turkmenistan Armed Forces who are Russian Federation citizens. Furthermore, by a decision of the president of Turkmenistan, the rate of pay of the Russian servicemen performing service on the republic's territory has been increased by 20 percent.

From the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA files. The country's leadership, headed by President Saparmurad Niyazov, is conducting a considered economic policy, which has enabled the republic to have a deficit-free budget—and it is the only republic in the CIS where this is the case. Foreign policy activity is characterized by an independent, amicable policy of active neutrality and a refusal to join any military-political blocs or alliances. A special place is given to strengthening all-around ties with Russia. One of the first normative-legal acts concluded by Turkmenistan with other states was the Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation with Russia, as well as a package of documents on military cooperation signed in July 1992.

The housing space occupied by Russian Federation Armed Forces servicemen who transfer to the reserve and are permanent residents of Turkmenistan is transferred to their possession. Those who choose Russia or other CIS countries as their place of residence after they are discharged, and build their own houses, are granted assistance by Turkmenistan in the form of funds worth 50 percent of the total cost of the construction.

Servicemen in the Turkmenistan Armed Forces take the oath of allegiance to the people of the state whose citizens they are. Russian servicemen additionally conclude contracts with the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense on the temporary performance of service on the territory of Turkmenistan, and they make a commitment to Turkmenistan's Ministry of Defense to serve conscientiously in the national Armed Forces. However, this provision contravenes the Russian Federation Law "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service," and this must be resolved by the Russian parliament.

What about financing? It has been determined by a special agreement that during the transitional period, the sides will carry this out on a shared basis.

It is envisaged that material-technical backup, and the maintenance and production of armaments, military hardware, and military-technical property will also be carried out jointly according to plans based on mutual payments agreed by the sides. Furthermore, Russia has provided the opportunity for training military cadres for the national Armed Forces of Turkmenistan in its military training institutions on the basis of annual applications and for a fee.

As we can see, a fairly large-scale program for the organizational development of the Turkmenistan Armed Forces has been elaborated. What have the past nine months of its implementation shown? There is food for thought here too. During that time, the leadership of Turkmenistan elaborated drafts of state Laws "On Defense" and "On Military Service Obligation and Military Service," and the basic provisions of military doctrine. These documents are being discussed in the Assembly and have not yet been adopted, and consequently, the proper legal base for the organizational development of the Turkmenistan Armed Forces has in practical terms not been created. At the moment, their life and activity are proceeding on the basis of normative-legal documents concluded with the Russian Federation in July 1992. But they have not yet been ratified by the Russian parliament either, and, it turns out, do not possess legislative force at present. What is this about?

The delay in the ratification of the Treaty "On Joint Measures in Connection with the Creation of Turkmenistan's Armed Forces" is occurring for a number of reasons. Such as the following, in particular: the lack of a status, agreed by the sides, for Turkmenistan Armed Forces servicemen who are Russian Federation citizens, and also guaranteed measures for their legal and social protection; the violation of the principles of centralism and undivided authority in the system of the command and control of the Armed Forces (the Turkmenistan Ministry of Defense and the joint Russian-Turkmenistan command); and the great disparity between Russia and Turkmenistan (a ratio of over 10:1) in the expenditure on maintaining the troops. Paradoxically enough, at the moment servicemen performing service in the national Armed Forces who have taken the oath of allegiance to their people are mainly maintained at the cost of another people, that is, Russia.

The prevailing situation in defense issues is forcing the republic's leadership to look for various ways of solving them. this includes political resources. Turkmenistan is the only one of the Central Asian republics of the former USSR which did not sign the Treaty on Collective Security. It also distanced itself from the signing of the CIS Charter. Time will tell how this will affect its defense capability. As far as the lack of progress in military cooperation with Russia is concerned, then the republic's leadership is trying to compensate for this by looking for contacts in the military sphere with Turkey, Ukraine, Iran, and other countries. Evidence of this is the free training of young Turkmens at Turkish military

training institutions. Turkey and Ukraine are also prepared to give other assistance to Turkmenistan in the military sphere.

Bearing all this in mind, and also with the aim of studying the problems of the implementation of treaties and agreements on defense issues, a delegation from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense and a government delegation under the leadership of V. Cherepov, Russian Federation ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Turkmenistan, worked in the republic 12 through 20 March of this year. At the talks, questions of a possible change in certain provisions in the treaty and the agreements concerning the organization of the command and control of the troops, their financing, and the holding of organizational measures aimed at the reduction of military formations among other things, were discussed.

During discussions with Russian Federation servicemen, it became evident that a special intergovernmental agreement is being prepared with the aim of strengthening their legal status. They will be provided with housing on Russia's territory. Meanwhile it is envisaged that the transfer of Turkmenistan Armed Forces servicemen who are Russian citizens to the territory of the Russian Federation at their wish will start primarily with those who have served in the Central Asian region for 10 years or more.

By and large the joint work promoted a rapprochement of the sides' views of the organizational development of Turkmenistan Armed Forces and the intensification of military cooperation between the two states. At the same time, the problem of strengthening the social and legal protection of the servicemen who are Russian Federation citizens and who performing service on the territory of Turkmenistan requires further urgent work at interstate level, so that a solution can be found.

And the last thing I would like to stress. Ensuring security in the south of Russia requires a thorough approach, obviously not just toward the Central Asian states and Kazakhstan which are parties to the Treaty on Collective Security, but also toward Turkmenistan, which is counting on Russia having a considered policy, with reliable prospects, on this region. Which is entirely logical. Because far fewer efforts are needed now to maintain the present mutual relations between Russia and Turkmenistan, than would be needed to reestablish them if they slacken. Therefore, with the national, economic, strategic, and other interests that Russia has in Turkmenistan, it is expedient to adopt all the necessary measures to settle the aforementioned problems in the immediate future.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Outlines Economic Achievements

LD1005183093 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1200 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] We did not have any distortion in our budget last year. The output of consumer goods stayed at an average level and even increased by 1 percent. We achieved a 17 percent rise in light industry. This was stated by Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov during his speech at the session of the Supreme Soviet. During the first months of the current year extraction of oil and gas in the countries of the Commonwealth dropped by 15 percent, while in Uzbekistan extraction of oil and gas increased; there was a 9.4 percent increase in oil and a 2 percent increase in gas extraction in the first quarter. During this period the country spent over 35 nillion rubles on the social protection of the population, the president emphasized.

Government To Regulate Money Circulation

LD1105110393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1048 GMT 11 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Baranov]

[Text] Taskent May 11 TASS—The Government of Uzbekistan has taken measures to protect the republic's consumer market and to regulate money circulation. They are explained by the introduction of national money in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan.

Starting from today, Uzbek Savings Banks will henceforth accept money only from residents of the republic and after checking their passports. The Cabinet of Ministers has ordered the Central Bank of the republic, jointly with the Uzbek Savings Bank, to check all the deposits within the next month and to suspend financial transactions with depositors, living in other republics of the former Union.

Goods worth up to 25,000 roubles will henceforth be sold only for coupons, and goods worth more than 25,000 roubles—through cheques or by remittance. Cheques and cheque books will be issued only to citizens of Uzbekistan.

Directors and managers of all ranks will bear personal responsibility for the observance of commercial regulations and other measures to protect the consumer market. Most severe measures will be applied to violators, up to and including criminal punishments.

The Uzbek Central Bank was recommended to promptly revise inter-bank agreements with the CIS countries that introduce their own currencies. A 10-day time limit has been fixed, during which the Central Bank and the Uzbek Finance Ministry are to settle debts and other bank obligations with the Republic of Kyrgyzstan.

Licence regulations, governing the export of goods and other material values from the republic, are being toughened. Strict norms of luggage, permitted for aerial, railway and motor transportation, have been announced.

Supreme Soviet Session Ends; Laws Adopted

LD0805100993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0900 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] The latest session of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet has ended. A package of laws and normative acts regulating the implementation of economic reforms and social changes in connection with the transition to a market economy was adopted. The Supreme Soviet has endorsed a law on the republic's monetary system so that Uzbekistan, for the time being at least, remains in the ruble zone, although its own currency—the som—may be put into circulation at any moment.

Deputies' Appeal to People To Contribute to Nation's 'Prosperity'

LD1005183193 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1200 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] All the republican newspapers of Uzbekistan have published the parliamentary deputies' appeal to the people, adopted at the session of the Supreme Soviet that has finished. The address calls on everyone living in the republic, irrespective of nationality, to make their own contribution to Uzbekistan's prosperity.

At the same time, it expresses anxiety over the actions of those, who as the appeal says, "miss the Red empire," and "wish to restore the former [Soviet] Union." And among us there are people, it notes further, who have gotten used to eating the people's bread and being protected by the totalitarian regime and now are experiencing nostalgia for the old days. In reply to them, the appeal says, we give the answer provided by President Islam Karimov, who was elected by the people: "All the bridges have been burned; there is no turning back."

Committee Given Constitutional Control Pending Elections

LD1005183293 Tashkent UZBEKISTAN APN in Russian 1200 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The session of the Supreme Soviet of Uzbekistan which has completed its work in Tashkent has entrusted the current composition of the committee for constitutional control with the functions of the members of the Constitutional Court. These functions the committee will perform until the election of the Ulu Majlis [highest legislative body of Uzbekistan according to the new constitution] and the election of the Constitutional Court. Elections to the Ulu Majlis should take place next year. It will consist of 150 deputies instead of 500 that have been elected to the existing Supreme Soviet.

President Returns From Visit to Germany

PM0705132393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 93 First Edition p 3

[Shakhabutdin Zaynutdinov report from "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Uzbekistan and Germany Have Set Up Economic Aid Fund"]

[Text] Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov has completed his official visit to the FRG.

The trip resulted in the signing of intergovernmental agreements on cultural cooperation, defending capital on the basis of existing laws, and setting up a bilateral economic aid fund. Islam Karimov was welcomed by FRG Federal President Richard von Weizsaecker.

Armenia

Spokesman Denies Rejection of Tripartite Peace Proposal

NC1005172293 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] Presidential spokesman Aram Abrahamyan held a news conference at the president's residence today. It was devoted to UN Security Council Resolution 822 and the tripartite effort by Russia, the United States, and Turkey.

In reference to UN Security Council Resolution 822, the presidential press spokesman set out the position of the Armenian authorities, which is: The aforementioned resolution (?includes) a number of provisions that might considerably help resolve the Azerbaijani-Armenian conflict, particularly the provisions on lifting the blockade on Armenia and a cease-fire, for which Armenia has often expressed its support.

As for the withdrawal of the Karabakh self-defense forces from Kelbadzharskiy Rayon [words indistinct], Abrahamyan said that this would require an immediate cease-fire and sound international guarantees for the security of the people of Karabakh.

Abrahamyan categorically denied claims that the adoption of this resolution constituted a (?defeat) for Armenian diplomacy. He underlined that this resolution imposes certain responsibilities on the sides to continue the talks within the CSCE framework.

Commenting on the issue of the tripartite initiative by Russia, the United States, and Turkey, Abrahamyan noted that contrary to the propagandistic allegations that Armenia has assumed a (?negative) stance against it, our official position is that for that initiative to help the peaceful resolution of the conflict it must propose mutually acceptable steps.

The press spokesman stressed the importance of the visit paid to Yerevan and Stepanakert by the Russian president's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov, during which he met the Armenian president and the Karabakh leadership.

Abrahamyan also stressed the importance of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan's meeting with Georgy Petrosyan, acting chairman of the Karabakh Supreme Soviet, and Robert Kocharyan, chairman of the State Defense Committee, scheduled for (?next) week. According to Aram Abrahamyan, at the conclusion of that meeting a joint document will be produced on the tripartite initiative.

Abrahamyan also spoke on a number of issues pertaining to domestic affairs and replied to reporters' questions.

Official Comments on Talks With Russia on Fuel Supplies

LD1005203393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The talks in Moscow were long and difficult, but eventually the sides managed to find a common language, Vladimir Manoyan, press secretary of the Armenian prime minister, commented on the results of Armenian-Russian talks on fuel supplies to Armenia. Speaking at a news conference in Yerevan today, he stressed that the protocol signed in Moscow on 6 May is quite favorable for Armenia. According to Vladimir Manoyan, Russia has pledged to assist the Armenian side in organizing safe deliveries of fuel to the republic.

In addition, Russia has promised to take measures to put in order the amounts of gas delivered to Armenia.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Interviewed on Yeltsin Meeting, Abkhazia

LD1005132093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0500 GMT 10 May 93

[Interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by unidentified correspondent in Tbilisi—live]

[Text] [Correspondent] Good morning, friends. Eduard Shevardnadze, head of the Georgian state and chairman of the republic's parliament, is speaking to you. Mr. Shevardnadze, Sukhumi was bombed nearly every day last week. The leader of the UN delegation issued a statement of protest, and I am stressing this fact because UN representatives usually refrain from making such overt statements. The experts forecast a further deterioration of the situation. You will be meeting President Yeltsin under these circumstances. Do you think that this meeting will have a concrete and real result in connection with the events in Abkhazian events?

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. Thank you. First of all, about the importance of this meeting: You know that the issue of our meeting has been developed for a long time, and it may be over-developed today. This was probably necessary, and I think that the meeting will be of serious importance.

I do not want to conjure up unnecessary illusions in this respect, but when we are talking about separate problems—such as resolving the Abkhazian conflict, the situation that came about in Samachablo, the economic state of the country, and so on—we must take into consideration the fact that the key to many of these problems lies in Georgian-Russian relations, I mean mutually beneficial, good neighborly relations between the two countries—completely new relations.

I think this meeting will herald these relations. In my telephone conversation with the president, I stressed

exactly this—that we must start building new relations. As for tackling the Abkhazian conflict in the light of Russian-Georgian negotiations, I would say that if we are still talking about the key to resolving the conflict, it lies, on the one hand, in the Georgian-Abkhazian dialogue and, on the other hand, in the Russian-Georgian relations. Even Russia's neutral stance means a lot, let alone its active and positive role in carrying out the demands about which our parliament unequivocally expressed its attitude.

This meeting cannot be viewed in isolation when we are talking about resolving the Abkhazian conflict. We must take into consideration the UN's active participation. It has already issued a statement from the hot spot on the Ukrainian and European structures'—especially Ukraine's—readiness to participate actively as a mediator. These are the impulses that have been palpable. When the moment is right, we will, of course, ask the Ukrainian authorities for help to find interesting forms for cooperation.

I would like to mention a new idea with respect to resolving the conflict. It is cooperation between the peoples of the Caucasus. I mean our dialogue with Armenia and Azerbaijan. I have mentioned it many times. The role and responsibility of these two countries in settling the conflict have become more distinct since the meeting in Istanbul.

This is the whole system of issues that is connected with resolving the Abkhazian problem. I will reiterate, however, that the most important factor is Russian-Georgian relations. We will see what the results of this meeting will be.

[Correspondent] You will be arriving in Moscow in a rather complex situation. As you know, it was feared that the outcome of the demonstration dedicated to 9 May could have been serious. The pro-communist forces were feared to retaliate yesterday. Luckily, everything ended peacefully. This does not mean, however, that the situation in Russia is less tense at the moment and that it will be alleviated. Experts say that the country is still facing the danger of a civil war.

[Shevardnadze] I think that, regardless of what the outcome of yesterday's demonstration could have been, one thing is clear—the Russian president has reinforced his position because of the referendum. Our assumptions and hopes were not groundless. The forecast that was made in Georgia proved to be right. In my telephone conversation with Yeltsin, I could feel his confidence in his own power and more hope that Russia would develop in a democratic way. This is a helpful event and is important for us—and not only for us.

As for the demonstration, it did not work out quite as the enemies of democracy and reforms in Russia—in Russia and also on the territory of the former Soviet Union—hoped it would. So yesterday can also be considered the president's victory. Now, is there danger of civil war? The danger still remains, but now Yeltsin has far more reserves, resources, and possibilities to avoid this danger.

From this point of view, the Russian-Georgian negotiations on resolving the Abkhazian conflict, will play their role in reinforcing the position of the Russian democratic forces.

[Correspondent] Last week, following your orders, the Council of National Defense stopped functioning before relevant regulations were worked out. This step meant releasing Jaba Ioseliani from his duties as deputy chairman of the Council. General Georgiy Karkarashvili was appointed defense minister. At the parliamentary session on 6 May, you stressed there would be no coup in Georgia, that people would not support it, and if anybody was dreaming of it, he would be left alone. You had to make such statements several times. How can you assure people so confidently? Is it the signs of stabilization in the country, the people's attitude, or the good service of law-enforcement bodies?

[Shevardnadze] You have just given the main causes, but the most important thing is the people's disposition. People are tired, the country is tired, and nobody wants to talk about new coups and new cataclysms. Enough is enough. I think a major part of the population trusts the authorities; I mean the parliament and other structures of authority. Under these circumstances, if anybody is trying to accumulate some forces and attempts to attack the authorities—attempting a coup, so to speak—I think that the people will obliterate these forces.

I know there are some persons who are thinking and talking about a coup, and I think that a fear of being trampled over should stop them. These forces should know that they will not gain anything from the attempt, in their own personal interests or in the interests of state. The people will—I repeat myself—obliterate them. I am sure of it. That is why I am so confident in saying this.

[Correspondent] Mr. Shevardnadze, should we expect changes in personnel?

[Shevardnadze] It all hinges on how well we work—starting with the head of state and ending with officials. We must all perform our duties; unfortunately, this is not the case. The interests of the state and people come first on the list of our priorities. If somebody fails to meet these requirements, then changes are to be expected.

[Correspondent] When I asked you about the people's attitude, I meant the great popular support from the famous scientists and professors of the university. We had many phone calls from the Research Institute of Manuscripts, from callers who also expressed their support of your policy. The reason why I am remembering this is that the famous address in IBERIA SPEKTRI coincided with the reporting of Abkhazian events on Russian television. After that program, during the discussion, some participants did not seem to quite like you. It is interesting, to say the least, that the Russian

chauvinists' point of view regarding Abkhazia and Shevardnadze coincides with the point of view of those people who signed the letter [in IBERIA SPEKTRI].

[Shevardnadze] If you paid attention, I said at the parliament session that public opinion in Georgia can be measured by the university. I could not hide my alarm over the letter that was published in one of the newspapers, thinking that if it was the point of view of the university personnel, then what was the point of my staying in my office.

I am not arguing with anybody now. I do not like to hold endless arguments with my opponents, although we must discuss the ways of political battle, what we can and cannot do, and what is justifiable and what is not. I would like to thank the university. I thank the bulk of this huge institution—which is a conscience of Georgia—for its support. I am not sure whether I will be able to live up to their expectations, their hopes. I must assure them that I will exert myself. My strength, energy, knowledge, experience, and life will not be spared. So I would like to thank the university.

[Correspondent] You were in Bolnisi yesterday. Information was released that you visited because of the complex situation there.

[Shevardnadze] True, my visit to Bolnisi yesterday was caused by an extremely volatile situation, at least, as it was yesterday. The opposition between the native population and the new settlers is rather strong. The situation that has arisen there has not happened overnight, however. Unfortunately, the problems have been accumulating there over the last two or three years. I must say, the local authorities there will be responsible for everything. I cannot blame the native population there, who have lived there for hundreds of years. Neither can I blame the new settlers. They both have their unsolvable problems, aches, unemployment, and land distribution problems. However, the greatest tragedy for the people is idleness. We cannot put the highway in proper working order there because the highway has been left without anybody's attention. It was blocked by the armed groups. They created their own formations, which regulated the traffic there. You know very well what it means.

Now that we have started to establish control over the highway, many people have lost their source of income; therefore, we have a tense atmosphere. The day before yesterday, [Georgian Prime Minister] Tengiz Sigua was there, and yesterday my colleagues and I went to Bolnisi. The mayor of Tbilisi and all heads and deputies of law-enforcement bodies were with me. We had a very serious conversation there. I was convinced of the generosity and sincere desire of both the native population and the new settlers to overcome the problems as soon as possible.

I will make a decision today to create a governmental commission for resolving all pressing problems which trigger off tension. I am sure today or tomorrow such commission will be established and work toward resolving these problems.

[Correspondent] So you have....

[Shevardnadze, interrupting] I am sorry to interrupt you. An excellent youth fell victim to a criminal's bullet the day before yesterday, and I would like to express to his family my condolences over their bereavement. I am sorry I could not go to their place in person because it was already too late at night. The young man used to fight in Abkhazia and carried out state duties. It is such a shame he is no longer among us.

[Correspondent] Mr. Shevardnadze, you have mentioned the situation on the highways, and it is impossible to talk about the economic revival—say, the importance of Poti—if there is no order on the highways. The bodies of the Interior Ministry are working hard toward this end. Unfortunately, our highways are not guarded properly.

[Shevardnadze] They are not guarded, forget properly. I must say, though, that we managed to form the traffic police—comprising about 1,500 people—within a very short period of time. You probably listened to their report last night. Mr. Irakli Mkheidze, the head of the regiment, spoke last night. We are starting to work toward restoring order on the highways. This must become one of the most important sources of income.

At the moment, the money that is coming in is very little. Unfortunately, huge sums are being squandered—millions and billions. Money is not coming into the state fund. We must put an end to it. The first steps have already been taken. The Tbilisi- Dmanisi highway has been taken under control already. I hope that order will be restored there from today onward. Also, the Tbilisi-Tsiteli Khidi and Tbilisi-Sukhumi highways will be guarded.

Some of our activists have reacted now that there are traffic police there. I must say, however, that it was done solely in the interests of establishing order on the highways. The traffic police are in Senaki and Khobi now. In the end, we will advance to Gali, Ochamchire, Zugdidi, and little by little to Sukhumi. We must think of restoring complete order on the Tbilisi-Batumi highway. This—I reiterate—is of state importance, and we must achieve the goals set before us.

[Correspondent] Last week, one of the most important events took place in Tbilisi. A branch of the Deutschebank was opened in Georgia. This probably is an important event, and it means that Europe can see that the authorities of the country have control over the situation and that the first signs of stabilization are showing.

[Shevardnadze] Deutschebank has emerged. There are also other views toward getting additional credits. Ten billion ECU's have been earmarked by the EEC as further aid. You know that states and organizations do

not normally give a helping hand to a hopeless country. These are good signs. I said at the Deutschebank presentation ceremony that one swallow cannot make a spring, but it can herald the beginning of the spring.

Many other events will also take place if we keep together. I am going back to the issue of unity. Many problems will be tackled, and our friends will have the possibility to render more help to us and to support us in this difficult fight for independence.

I would like to say that Germany is such a strong country that it is doing a lot. I pin high hopes on the forthcoming visit to Germany. We will probably talk about it in more detail in our future programs.

[Correspondent] Mr. Shevardnadze, you have mentioned aid from foreign countries. One of the countries that has rendered help to Georgia on many occasions is Turkey. The situation in Turkey, regarding who will come to power, is still not clear. They say that the prime minister of the country, Suleyman Demirel, has the most chances. The reason why I am going back to the Turkish issue is that you said at one of the meetings that the Turkish and Ukrainian factor must become stronger in the region; hence, the political processes under way in this country are of relevant interest to us.

[Shevardnadze] I have expressed my points of view about the importance of the Ukrainian factor, and I will reiterate that Ukraine will be playing a growing role, not only in this region but in Europe and the whole world. I have also said that Turkey was the country that had to play a larger role in Europe and the whole world in fighting for peace and a new order. As for the presidential elections, this remains an internal issue of the Turkish Government and people, but I must express my own point of view that I think Mr. Demirel is one of the [passage indistinct].

Shevardnadze Views Conflicts With Separatists, Russia

AU1005152493 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 10 May 93 p 3

[Interview with Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze by Gabor Nemes in Tbilisi; date not given: "Conflict With Separatism"]

[Text] [Nemes] You are known as a master of compromise. With what compromises are you prepared to solve the military conflict in Abkhazia and in the former Autonomous Oblast of [South] Ossetia?

[Shevardnadze] The agreement signed by Yeltsin and myself defines the principles for solution of the conflict in Abkhazia. I am convinced that Abkhazia will keep its former status: It continues to be an autonomous republic within the framework of the Georgian state. All further questions will be settled by the new constitution. We established a constitutional committee, which is already working; therefore, it is hard for me to say whether a parliamentary, presidential, or other political institution will develop in Georgia—perhaps with certain elements of federalism. There is no conflict between Georgians and Abkhazians. There is a conflict between the young Georgian state and separatism—more precisely, a separatist movement supported by a third power.

[Nemes] You mean Russia. You are in an open conflict with this great power in Abkhazia, although cooperation takes place in other fields, in other conflicts. What relations can one have with Moscow after the solution of the present controversy?

[Shevardnadze] In any case, we are prepared to develop neighborly, friendly relations with Russia. In my opinion, a Georgian-Russian war would not only be nonsense, but a catastrophe.

[Nemes] Russia has recognized Georgia's borders. Accordingly, the solution of the Abkhazian and the South Ossetian issue would be an internal affair for Georgia. How are your relations with the national minorities developing? How do you want to establish peace in Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] We guarantee the national minorities all rights—that is, according to the European norms, the CSCE norms. We have undertaken several commitments regarding the citizenship laws and we are adhering to them.

[Nemes] In your surroundings, the call for a firm hand is becoming louder and louder. The proposals range from the introduction of a state of emergency to a presidential regime. All of this is with the understanding that order is to be finally established—that is, by Shevardnadze.

[Shevardnadze] The people who dream of a firm hand often forget how dangerous such a firm hand can be. They only think of law and order, and are surprised if the person with the firm hand develops into a dictator. As a result of bitter experiences and because I know exactly what a dictatorship means, I am rather cautious on this point. My task is to support the development of a democratic society, a democratic state.

[Nemes] What forces do you want to lean on?

[Shevardnadze] On the people. When necessary, I have turned to the people in the past. I feel their support.

[Nemes] Do you want to ignore the existing power structures and turn directly to the people?

[Shevardnadze] I turn to the people, but also to the parliament. We have a very original system, anywat. I am the parliamentary president, the head of state, and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces at the same time. Thus, I have enough power—more than necessary.

Further on Confirmation of New Defense Minister

PM1105082793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 93 First Edition p 4

[Besik Urigashvili report: "Georgia: What Lies Behind Appointment of New Defense Minister]

[Text] Tbilisi—The 27-year-old Georgian Army Brigade General Georgiy Karkarashvili has been confirmed by the Georgian parliament as the country's defense minister.

"It seems as though the Kitovani problem has been solved, but the Army problem remains on the agenda," a Shevardnadze aide stated in conversation with me. He was referring to the fact that Karkarashvili is a Kitovani placeman, and the confrontation between the Army and the head of state will continue in one form or another.

The removal of the influential Defense Minister Tengiz Kitovani, who is a relatively independent political figure and whose power was reinforced by the bayonets of guardsmen loyal to him, was preceded by a great deal of behind-the-scenes activity by Eduard Shevardnadze and his entourage. At last Tuesday's parliamentary session, Irina Sarishvili, leader of the National Democratic Party's parliamentary faction and whose loyalty to Shevardnadze's political line is beyond doubt, called on behalf of the party for the question of the defense minister to be finally cleared up—since no candidate had been put forward for confirmation by parliament. She was supported to differing degrees by most parliamentary deputies. Shevardnadze promised to answer this question at the next session. The next two days were spent in intensive consultations at the National Security and Defense Council. As Shevardnadze himself put it, he almost managed to persuade Kitovani to give up the post of defense minister and retain the post of vice premier in charge of the power ministries. But Kitovani rejected the proposal, realizing that the real levers for controlling the Army are to be found at the Defense Ministry. Kitovani left the council session stating that in this case he would continue to be an ordinary parliamentary deputy.

Several candidates were looked at for the post of defense minister, including Nodar Notadze, leader of the People's Front and chairman of the parliamentary Defense Commission, whose political standing is quite high, particularly among the nationalistically minded section of society. But Shevardnadze could not fail to take the military's opinion into account. Representatives of the Defense Ministry elite stated at the Security and Defense Council session that they would all resign after Kitovani, and then "who knows what might happen." Thus, the figure of Karkarashvili emerged, not without pressure from the military and not without the participation of Kitovani himself. Clearly calculating that he had to choose the lesser evil, and being sure that Karkarashvili—not as undesirable a figure as Kitovani—would be confirmed by parliament, Shevardnadze plumped for this candidate.

The new Georgian defense minister has been fighting constantly for more than six of his 27 years. He is a career military man—a graduate of the Tbilisi Artillery Academy, he fought in Afghanistan. He left the Soviet Army with the rank of captain, and took part in the fighting in Tskhinvali. The "White Eagle" battalion he commanded played a decisive part in ousting Zviad Gamsakhurdia during last year's December-January events. Karkarashvili then commanded the Georgian expeditionary corps in Abkhazia, but, following the defeat at Gagra and the death of his beloved brother—who also fought with the "White Eagle" subunit—he had a nervous breakdown and returned to Tbilisi. Until recently he had been deputy defense minister and commander of the "National Guard" rapid-response corps. He is described as a terribly bold but impulsive man liable to undertake abrupt moves and not very well-considered actions. At the same time, knowledgeable people claim, he is not as closely linked to corrupt and mafia structures as Kitovani is supposed to be.

One other important point in this political game is that the National Security and Defense Council—where Shevardnadze's first deputy had been Jaba Ioseliani, leader of the paramilitary "Mkhedrioni" formation—has been suspended. Thus, Ioseliani—a very influential man in the top echelons of Georgian politics—has to all intents and purposes resigned. Informed sources claim that during the National Security and Defense Council session Ioseliani himself expressed a readiness to leave the scene if Kitovani left. Without this step from Ioseliani, Kitovani's resignation would clearly have had more serious consequences. The fact is that both Georgia's black economy and its official economy are to all intents and purposes divided into spheres of influence between "Mkhedrioni" and the guards, and the departure of one of the two influential "godfathers"—Kitovani or Ioseliani—would have a noticeable increase in the other's power. The entourage of both Kitovani and Ioseliani could not permit this, and a compromise was reached.

But the question is—will Ioseliani and Kitovani agree to be "ordinary deputies"?

Defense Minister Meets With U.S. Envoy

LD1005204793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1950 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] According to Colonel Valeriy Gaprindashvili, head of the foreign relations directorate under the Georgian Defense Ministry, Kent Brown, the U.S. ambassador to Georgia, and the officials accompanying him, met with Georgian Defense Minister Karkarashvili. A constructive and warm-hearted conversation took place between them.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Urge Cease-Fire in Abkhazia

LD1005212993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2006 GMT 10 May 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the present time it would be advantageous for Shevardnadze to find an ally in Russia, taking into consideration the activation in Georgia of supporters of deposed president Gamsakhurdia, who are trying to outdo official Tbilisi in their peacemaking efforts. This is confirmed by the report from the press center of the information and intelligence service of Georgia which we have received via POSTFACTUM channels.

On 9 May a meeting took place in Gudauta between Sultan Sosnaliyev, acting defense minister of the Republic of Abkhazia, and Vakhtang Kobalia, commander of the armed formations of Zviad Gamsakhurdia supporters. Both sides spoke out in favor of a cessation of the armed confrontation in Abkhazia and outlined specific actions.

Chikvaidze, Israeli Envoy Discuss Relations

LD0805142393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze today met Mr. (Binyamin Abilea), the Israeli charge d'affaires in Georgia. The talk touched upon the issues of bilateral relations between the two states. The charge d'affaires noted that a number of corresponding services and offices of Georgia and Israel have already established cooperation within their spheres of activity. The cooperation is being carried out successfully at this initial stage and this creates favorable prospects for further development of business relations.

The Israeli side expressed its willingness to send another group of experts to Georgia to have the details of commercial, economic, banking, and financial problems specified. The two sides discussed the state of the documents to be signed during the visit of Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, to Israel. It has been noted with satisfaction that the major drafts of the agreement are ready and in the very near future the drawing up of the versions acceptable to both sides will be completed. The exact date of the visit is not actually known, but it is supposed to take place at the end of May.

Parliament Elects Representatives of Black Sea Assembly

AU1005170093 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 May 93 p 1

["Decree of the Georgian parliament on the Election of Georgian Parliamentary Representatives to the Assembly of Economic Cooperation of Black Sea Basin Countries" issued in Tbilisi on 4 May]

[Text] The Georgian parliament **decrees:**

To elect the following as representatives of the Georgian parliament in the Assembly of Economic Cooperation of Black Sea Basin Countries:

Parliamentary Speaker **Vakhtang Goguadze.**

Members:

Zurab Andriadze; Malkhaz Baramidze; Giorgi Gachechiladze; Givi Lominadze

[Signed] **Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian parliament**

[Dated] **Tbilisi, 4 May 1993**

Ratifies Friendship Treaty With Azerbaijan

AU0705141793 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 28 Apr 93 p 1

["Decree of the Georgian parliament on the Ratification of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Security Between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan" issued in Tbilisi on 6 April]

[Text] The Georgian parliament **decrees:**

To ratify the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Security Between the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament

Tbilisi, 6 April 1993

Sigua Reports on Crime, Drug Problem

AU1005154493 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 29 Apr 93 p 1, 2

[Report presented by Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua at a meeting of active representatives of law enforcement agencies in the parliament conference hall in Tbilisi on 25 April: "We Have To Overcome All Difficulties on the Path Leading to the Construction of a Future Independent State and Ensure the Protection of the Peace and Dignity of the Citizens"]

[Excerpts] **Ladies and gentlemen!**

Recently, we discussed here the situation regarding the struggle against violations of the law following the results for January of last year and this year. You will agree with me that the conversation was sharp and dealt with questions of principle, as the serious criminal situation that has taken shape has alarmed our society and all sectors of the population. The session was covered on television and by the press and specific measures were planned.

About two months have since passed. What has changed today? In reality, probably very little. Against the background of a still unenviable sociopolitical, economic, and criminal situation, the first quarter of this year, just like the corresponding period last year, has been characterized by its complexity, if we do not take into account the trend toward a very slight deterioration.

As statistics show, during the first three months of this year, there were 35 more cases of common crime, an

increase of 0.7 percent (from 4,879 to 4,914), and 316 more cases of serious crime, an increase of 18.7 percent (from 1,691 to 2,007).

What gives me particular cause for thought are the statistics that show an increase in crimes against the person. In the first quarter of 1993, 204 cases of premeditated murder were registered, which represents an increase of 56 cases, or 37.8 percent, compared with the figures for the corresponding period last year. The number of cases of attempted murder and bodily harm rose by 23 or 26.8 percent (from 112 to 135). The number of rapes has almost doubled (from 7 to 13). Robbery is rising rapidly, including armed robbery. During the first three months of this year alone, the increase amounted to 234 cases (from 696 to 830). There have been seven more cases of hooliganism or an increase of 8.4 percent (from 83 to 90), and so forth.

Every sixth or seventh criminal offense is committed at a place of public gathering and there have been 38 more cases compared with the corresponding period last year (from 604 to 642). In general, the proportion of offenses committed in places of public gathering and on the street has risen, along with all other crimes, to 13 percent [of all crime]. [passage omitted]

It must be pointed out that one of the reasons for the increase in crime is the still low detection rate. During the first quarter of this year, one crime in two remained unsolved or 2,779 (43.4 percent were detected), including: 117 murders, 62 cases of grievous bodily harm, 623 robberies, 712 cases of theft of personal property, 376 incidents of car theft, and so forth. [passage omitted]

The unenviable situation concerning crime detection and the struggle against violations of the law is a consequence of the fact that the police have been unable to regain the trust of the broad public and restore its authority. An incorrect cadres policy, according to which experienced and professional employees are being released from their positions, as they say, with a wave of the hand on account of their age and the proportion of knowledgeable and inexperienced employees is being disregarded, is having an effect on, first and foremost, official activities. It is no secret that such an approach toward cadres has lowered their general professional level, efficiency, and elements of responsibility, as a result of which they are unable to obtain the appropriate information concerning specific crimes, criminal groups, and, in general, existing negative processes. To this may be added the fact that there are no corresponding contacts and interaction between local police and the Procurator's Office, supervisory control is weak, and no activity is visible on the part of the courts, in particular, with regard to upholding the principles of the inevitability of punishing criminals, and so forth. In this situation, it is not surprising that we cannot talk about any real positive shifts.

The worsening of the crime situation, along with these circumstances, is conditioned by the fact that law enforcement agencies have significantly weakened their efforts in the struggle against the causes of and factors contributing to crime and, first and foremost, serious crime. At present, they cannot manage to expose or halt organized crime and racketeering. [passage omitted]

The next burning problem that I would like to broach is that of drug addiction. We have to admit that the struggle against this national misfortune today is at a very low level. Top-level personnel in schools, higher educational institutions, and health protection bodies are doing practically nothing in this direction. There have been cases when we have exposed personnel at medical institutions as direct dealers of drugs or substitute medicines and preparations, which shows that their registration and the defense mechanism are not functioning and the corresponding control is weak.

What is insufficient, I would say sluggish, is the work being done by the law enforcement agencies, first and foremost the police. During the first quarter of this year, 211 criminal cases connected with drug addiction have been instigated and 270 people have been exposed. It is true that this figure exceeds that for the corresponding period last year but this does not reflect in any way at all the scale of the spread of drug addiction in Georgia. This is not surprising as an atmosphere of united irreconcilability has not been created in the struggle against this dangerous disease. Furthermore, the coordinating link in the form of the republican Commission for the Struggle Against Drug Addiction is not functioning as yet. Therefore, we have to make every effort to ensure that this institution comes into full-time operation in the very near future.

Along with drug addiction, what worries me greatly is the process of the invasion of the drug business into Georgia. This is not surprising as the republic's geographical location and the serious social and political situation that has taken shape is contributing to its rapid spread. Furthermore, the prices of drugs on the black market today have become astronomical; in particular, 1 kg of opium now costs 5 million rubles and 1 kg of morphine 10 million rubles.

To acquire these poisonous substances, large quantities of valuables that have been acquired by theft, robbery, and other criminal means are being exchanged. Drugs come into our country from Iran, Turkey, India, Pakistan, China, Singapore, and so forth, not to mention the regions of the commonwealth such as the North Caucasus, the Krasnodar region, and the republics of Central Asia. [passage omitted]

As you can see, an extremely alarming situation is being created in the republic. I believe and, you will probably agree with me, that more effective measures should be taken against this disease. Hence my request to Batoni Teimuraz Khachishvili [minister of internal affairs],

Batoni Irakli Menagharishvili [minister of health protection], Batoni Tamaz Kvachantiradze, and others who deal with and are concerned by problems of drug addiction that everyone should use his own powers to the maximum in his own area and, at the same time, combine his efforts so that we can wage a merciless struggle against drug addiction and drug trafficking and can save our youth and our people from this misfortune.

In addition to implementing active operational and preventive measures, I consider it necessary:

1. Rapidly to create a national center for the struggle against drug addiction in the republic that will be able to resolve all questions of organization and coordination relating to this problem, implement permanent control, and carry out analyses and forecasting so that a single strategy and set of tactics may be implemented in the struggle against this disease. If we consider such a body to be the republican Commission for the Struggle Against Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking, it has to be given special rights so that it may be provided with the material, technical, and other means, and, most importantly, so that it can correctly resolve the cadres question.

2. A national program on the struggle against drug addiction that has been coordinated with departments approved by Parliament and leading specialists should be set up and published by this commission; its priorities should correspond to the general principles and statutes of the UN.

3. Parliament should accelerate the adoption of a single law or package of laws that will regulate the circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances, determine the responsibility, the legislation on the circulation of drugs, and the jurisdiction of state bodies in this sphere, and promote questions relating to the social and medical rehabilitation of drug addicts. The adopted law should correspond to the basic statutes of the UN conventions of 1961, 1971, and 1990 on the organization of the struggle against the illegal circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

4. Until all this has been ratified, the National Security and Defense Council is to adopt an interim decree on the social and medical rehabilitation of drug addicts and responsibility for the circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances. [passage omitted]

Turkey Grants $50-Million Credit

LD1005193393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 10 May 93

[Excerpt] The Government of Turkey has allocated $50 million to our republic. It has been decided to use this three-year credit to revitalize production and support entrepreneurship and small businesses. Without doubt many organizations, enterprises, and firms will show interest in receiving the credit. They will have to apply to the Directorate of Foreign Investment and Credit under the Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. [passage ommited]

Estonia

Prime Minister, U.S. Enovy Discuss U.S. Baltic Policy

LD1005171593 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 1520 GMT 10 May 93

[Text] The Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar has said he considered important the remark by the U.S. ambassador to Estonia that Estonia's development could become a model for all of the former Soviet empire in a short time.

Laar received the American Ambassador Robert C. Frasure today to discuss the Baltic policy of the United States and economic cooperation. The Estonian prime minister stressed the necessity to initiate American export credit programs in the Baltic states.

Luik Hopes Russian Referendum Results Speed Troop Withdrawal

WS1005145493 Tallinn BNS in English 1735 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Tallinn, May 8, BNS—Leader of the Estonian delegation at the negotiations with Russia Juri Luik hopes that the successful referendum in Russia contributes to the acceleration of the Russian troops withdrawal from Estonia.

"The successful referendum has given an impetus to the Moscow democratic forces for a more active foreign political activity. We hope it will accelerate the Russian troops withdrawal from Estonia," Luik said after his two-day visit to Moscow.

An agreement was reached with the leadership of Russia that in May, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachov, and Deputy Foreign Minister Vitali Churkin will visit Estonia, BNS was informed by the Foreign Ministry.

In Moscow, Luik was negotiating with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Shahrai. The parties discussed possible ways out of the situation that has emerged at the Estonian-Russian negotiations, and drew a unanimous conclusion that the preparations for the meeting of the premiers of the two states should be sped up.

Also, talks on promoting economic cooperation, including Estonia's recent initiative on several transit trade agreements were held.

Luik also met leader of the Russian delegation at the inter-state negotiations Vasili Svirin in order to discuss mutual relations and prepare the next round of the negotiations. Luik forwarded to Svirin Estonia's protest concerning the staff maneuvers of the Russian army Northwestern group that took place on April 18-21.

Luik also met Russian politicians and foreign diplomats accredited to Moscow.

New Defense Forces Chief Targets Violence, Abuse in Military

WS1005133793 Tallinn BNS in English 1439 GMT 8 May 93

[Text] Tallinn, May 08, BNS—Aleksandr Einseln appointed on 4 May as the commander of Estonian Defense Forces signed on Thursday [6 May] an order against "abuse, rudeness and physical violence" in relations between Estonian militaries.

The order obliges commanders of sub-units to assure normal relations between the militaries and to immediately inform the Supreme Headquarters of Defense Forces about all cases of violating laws and service regulations.

"The Estonian Republic is creating armed forces worthy of an independent democratic state. High culture, friendliness and sympathy in interrelations. Such a style of mutual relations is to be restored in our Defense Forces", the order says.

The Chief of the Supreme Headquarters Office Mart Tiru believes the Commander's order might create an impression that the situation in the Estonian army is not normal. "In fact it is not so, of course", said M. Tiru to the BNS correspondent. "There were some cases of bullying, but their number decreases constantly."

No New Consulates in CIS Countries To Be Opened

LD0705154993 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry press secretary Urmas Reitelmann has said that no new consulates will be opened in CIS countries despite the fact that as of 1 June no entry visas will be issued at the border. There are plans to open an embassy in Ukraine and a consulate in Pskov in the future when there is money.

Lithuania

Prime Minister Interviewed on Policy, Reform

WS1105115893 Vilnius LIETUVOS AIDAS in Lithuanian 21 Apr 93 No. 74 pp 1, 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, newly elected chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, by editor in chief Saulius Stoma: "Prime Minister Slezevicius Is Not Going To Dance to the Seimas' Tune?", first paragraph is newspaper introduction; last paragraph is editorial postscript]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius—the newly elected chairman of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party, LDLP—agreed to answer the questions of LIETUVOS AIDAS the next day.

[Stoma] **Let us begin with your biography. You were born in 1948, in Siauliai, graduated from the Engineering Faculty of the Kaunas Politechnical Institute, and became the deputy minister of the meat and milk industry at 29. What determined your swift career—personal qualities or favorable conditions?**

[Slezevicius] Certain conditions are necessary for a successful career. This is very important, because one may achieve quite good results while working in the background. However, one may remain there in the absence of favorable conditions. I have been lucky in this respect. Mother has told me that when I was a little boy, a gypsy foretold that I would be clever and happy. I am happy with my work and family. On the whole, I have a happy life. I have worked hard all my life, and my parents taught me to love work. I used to graze cattle or weed the garden when my contemporaries played football. I understand the true meaning of work education. I also worked when a student—loaded railway cars and wrote numerous term papers. After the institute, I was a designing engineer at a dairy plant. I managed to attain the position of deputy minister in four and a half years. I became a deputy minister not because I was the best in this sphere, but because conditions were favorable. A relative of one candidate had emigrated to the United States—this was a negative condition then, while another rival had committed some mistakes. This is how I came to head the milk industry at 29 that employed about 15,000 people. Four years later, I left Lithuania to continue education on my own initiative. I defended a candidate's thesis in a year—such was my goal. A monograph appeared in the second year. During those two years I wrote about 20 articles and participated in different conferences.

[Stoma] **On your return from Moscow, you became engaged in party activities. Wasn't it a sort of demotion? I do not understand this hierarchy very well. You became the head of one CC [Central Committee] department, didn't you?**

[Slezevicius] This was not a demotion according to the hierarchy, because the deputy chief of a department cooperated with ministers, and his salary was good. However, this meant a certain demotion. They were not too eager to take an educated person—they may have seen a rival in me or something. I found myself in the CC by accident. I wanted to work in industry. However, after trying several places I understood that they clearly did not want me. Then I made arrangements with the party school to take a job there and continue my doctoral dissertation. I also had an agreement with Mr. Poskus, director of the Agrarian Economy Institute, to become his deputy. Later, I got a proposal from Mr. Astrauskas. At that time, the work at the CC was prestigious and interesting. I supervised all food industries for six years. I was pleased with my work and I feel no shame for having worked there because I benefited professionally.

[Stoma] **After the restoration of independence you worked as the deputy minister of agriculture. From 1991, you worked for the joint Norwegian-Lithuanian company 'C.-Olsen-Baltic' which is not widely known. What does it do, and what was your work like?**

[Slezevicius] Certainly, such small companies may not be well known. After my work at the CC, I was democratically elected the chairman of Pienocentras, and later—the chairman of the Milk Producers' Association. These were my moral support after the collapse of the entire party structure. Having been ousted from the Ministry of Agriculture, I had to find some job. We registered the joint venture in April 1991. The Norwegian partner has long- standing traditions dating back to 1859. This is a private commercial firm that engages in milk production.

[Stoma] **There were rumors about your large salary—$10,000 a month.**

[Slezevicius] Mr. Zukas from the newspaper RESPUBLIKA has always liked spicy sensations. Of course, this was untrue.

[Stoma] **What has this firm achieved in Lithuania? Has it concluded any contracts?**

[Slezevicius] This is a commercial and a mediating firm. That is why a few people's contribution cannot be very substantial. We were engaged in bringing Norwegian technologies to Lithuania. We traded in dairy products with Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuanian enterprises and acted as their intermediaries.

[Stoma] **You have been to the United States on a training course. What foreign languages can you speak?**

[Slezevicius] I will start with out closest neighbors—the Russian language. I am also fluent in English.

[Stoma] **Please, tell us about your family and children.**

[Slezevicius] I have two daughters—22 and eight. The latter is a schoolgirl. The first is married and lives in Kaunas, and has told us that we will become grandparents soon.

[Stoma] **Why has the LDLP elected you the chairman exactly now? Such a close connection with the government in this difficult period may be disadvantageous to the LDLP.**

[Slezevicius] This question is very complicated. I see more advantages than disadvantages. That is why I agreed to become the chairman.

Why? First of all, whatever effort we try to make (I suspended my activities in the LDLP Council once), it is the LDLP that is forming the government that must implement the program. Thus, my attempts to dissociate from it are unnecessary. I am not a very experienced politician, and I thought in the beginning that I could suspend my membership in the LDLP. However, I have become convinced that dual responsibilities will help us strive for the common goal and observe the common

strategy—that is, they will assist us in implementing the LDLP electoral program. This will facilitate our dialogue with the Seimas and its LDLP faction. After all, the party that enjoys the majority in the Seimas will be able to implement the government program with more ease.

[Stoma] **You are becoming a serious politician, and you have a chance (taking into account your age) to remain the LDLP leader for a longer time. How could you define your place in the current LDLP ideological spectrum? Are you closer to the moderate wing? Can we call you Brazauskas' man? Will you represent the interests of the younger generation in your party? The LDLP also has the so-called University group and the 'agrarians.' Which of them are you close to?**

[Slezevicius] I do not know what you mean by the 'university group' and I am not familiar with their postulates. However, judging by my nature and character, I am a moderate. This has always helped me. This is what makes me different from some left- wing colleagues who resolutely threw out their membership cards under the new circumstances. In principle, such a move does not mean the dissociation from the history and the past, and the fact that I worked in the Central Committee will always remain in my life's record. I became a communist not because of my beliefs. I remained in the LDLP because of my moderate views and because its temperate ideas about reform were acceptable to me. Thus, even today I would define myself as a moderate and consistent person. I will try to implement these principles in the LDLP.

[Stoma] **Does this mean that your election can be interpreted as the strengthening of the moderate LDLP wing and the opposition to the so-called 'agrarians' or those who favor tougher policy?**

[Slezevicius] I will strive for a moderate policy. I suppose that it has a greater prospect. Aggressiveness is unnecessary and harmful to society. I am ready for an open and constructive dialogue with all political and social organizations. When speaking with Mr. Landsbergis, the social democrats, or other forces, I say that this dialogue should be continued. Dialogue, exchange of opinions, arguments, and counterarguments should be the means for easing the tension in the Seimas and among different society groups. I would urge others for such a dialogue, because their current isolation and unwillingness to talk brings nothing good for the state and the people.

[Stoma] **The president has proposed the LDLP faction to repeal the decision on the dissolution of the Vilnius Council. What do you think of this Seimas resolution?**

[Slezevicius] I would say in support of your idea that a dialogue without a response is not constructive. Nor can there be any dialogue without compromise which is essential in politics. I arranged the meeting between the president and the representatives of the Vilnius City Council. The Constitutional Court should deal with this problem. However, there is one difficulty—the Constitutional Court has no seat, which means that it cannot function. However, I have talked to the president and would support the urge for compromise, especially in such a serious case.

[Stoma] **Let us go back to the issue of agriculture. You are a specialist in this sphere, and could tell us a lot of interesting things. How do you imagine Lithuania's agriculture in five years? What percent of land will be owned by individual farmers and agrarian companies, respectively? What do you predict?**

[Slezevicius] I would like to categorically state one thing—all land must be privatized in five years. This is the key principle, and we will try to implement it through all measures. On the whole, privatization must be sped up in all spheres. There is no alternative to efficiency and intensiveness in the private sector. We should also observe the principle of restitution. The continuity of property rights is sacred and indisputable. However, your question is much more complicated—on what principles will we base our agrarian reform? Up to now, the former agrarian reform has been a complete failure. It was prepared without any definite concept, and its implementation has shown that it has no future. Why? First of all, only 13,000 farmers have received ownership documents—that is, they have a legal right to land. Such a timetable would require additional 40 years to complete agrarian reform, because, as you may know, there are about 500,000 owners. Another problem is that the implementation of this reform is hampered by the lack of 800,000 hectares of land. Why has this happened? Towns have expanded, roads and industrial enterprises have been built, and agrarian firms have emerged. If we do not amend anything, we would have to say that between 100,000 and 150,000 owners will be left with no land after the agrarian reform is over. Can we follow this course and leave part of the people deprived of their hopes? I am convinced that we cannot do this. That is why amendments are indispensable. What amendments? We must balance the amount of land with the owners' number and speed up reform. The government program states that this process should last from three to five years. We must draft projects of land exploitation which would help us to assess the actual situation. If we restore the ownership right and provide the opportunity for a person to either join a cooperative (of one's own free will), or become a farmer, or lease land, or sell it, we will expand the freedom of choice considerably. We believe that in a few years we will be able to settle all legal issues and establish a mortgage bank. This would enable us to solve all problems. We would also release another 500,000 hectares of farmland which are not yet privatized and currently belong to agro-industrial complexes. We suppose that the previous reform, which features farms measuring 8.6 hectares, has no prospect. This is a dead end.

[Stoma] **Would not the natural course of events highlight the best option?**

[Slezevicius] I fully agree with you. However, do we have enough finances and measures to program such a difficult

course for our people who would have to endure it in poverty again? Latvians and Estonians are more logical in their agrarian reform—they have chosen the strategy of stockholding. The Lithuanian Supreme Council banned this once as absolutely unacceptable and blameworthy.

[Stoma] **What is stockholding?**

[Slezevicius] It is when a former collective farm becomes a stock company—that is, its former members become stockholders (like in Zelsvele collective farm).

[Stoma] **Do you think that it is more dangerous to suspend a reform in progress (although with numerous mistakes) than to finish getting out of a hole?**

[Slezevicius] We must suspend it. If we do not do this, we will find ourselves in even greater trouble. I believe that we have found a decision which is acceptable to all participants of the agrarian reform. The key thing is to give the people an alternative. It is not in Vilnius that we must decide how they should farm.

The next issue of LIETUVOS AIDAS will continue the interview with the prime minister where you will learn about his views on the free market and other issues.

Delegate Comments on Talks With Russia

LD1005152593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1352 GMT 10 May 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladar Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius May 10 TASS—"I believe that an official visit by President Algirdas Brazauskas to the Russian Federation and a Lithuanian-Russian summit are hardly possible before a political treaty is signed between Vilnius and Moscow on the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Lithuania," Virgilius Bulovsas, the new head of the Lithuanian state delegation to the talks with Russia, told a briefing here today.

He commented on the results of his recent meeting in Moscow with leader of the Russian delegation to the talks Viktor Isakov.

Bulovsas said that "Russia was insisting on the earliest possible signing of a political document on the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Lithuania, which we still do not have. We only have a schedule for their withdrawal, which is being observed".

He added that talks between the two government delegations would be held in Vilnius from May 18-19. Its agenda will apparently include problems linked with the transit through Lithuanian territory of Russian troops pulled out of Germany and compensation entitled to Lithuanians, unlawfully exiled to concentration camps during the Soviet period, with the payment of pensions and social allowances to former Soviet servicemen residing in Lithuania.

Bulovsas denied reports by some mass media sources and individual Lithuanian politicians that Russia had toughened its stand at the negotiations and expressed surprise about the fact that the "negotiations process between the two countries was practically suspended as of September 1992 and to this day".